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U.S. PRICIERS RECIRATORY COMMISSION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY

Docket Nos. STN 50-483 11:01 STN 50-486

(Callaway Plant, Units 1 and 2)

OBJECTIONS OF THE NRC STAFF TO JOINT INTERVENORS' FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES

Coalition for the Environment, St. Louis Region, Missourians for Safe Energy, and Crawdad Alliance (hereafter "Joint Intervenors") have propounded one-hundred eleven (111) interrogatories and five (5) separate document requests to the NRC Staff. The Staff's response to these requests is due on July 10, 1981. As required in the Special Prehearing Conference Order of April 21, 1981, the Staff herewith files its objections to the Joint Intervenors' aforementioned discovery.

Interroyatories 42 and 43

Interrogatories 42 and 43 provide:

- 42. State whether the NRC has evidence of honeycombing at nuclear power plants other than Callaway where Bechtel Fower Corp. was architect/engineer, contractor or subcontractor. If affirmative, identify the other plants and provide the following information, separately for each plant:
 - (a) State the date(s) when concrete was poured in which honeycombing was found;
 - (b) Identify all NRC reports which pertain to the honeycombing.

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- 43. State whether the NRC has evidence of honeycoming at nuclear power plants other than Callaway where Daniel International was contractor or subcontractor. If affirmative, identify the other plants and provide the following information, separately for each plant:
 - (a) State the date(s) when the concrete was poured in which honeycombing was found.
 - (b) Identify all NRC Reports which pertain to the honeycombing.

The above interrogatories request detailed information and documents concerning all nuclear power plants other than <u>Callaway</u> where there was "evidence of honeycombing" and where Bechtel Power Corp. or Daniel International were either the contractor or subcontrator. The Staff has not compiled any such information, if indeed, any exists. In order to respond to these interrogatories, the Staff would be required to engage in extensive research and data gathering, involving great time and expense. It has been held that an interrogated party cannot be required to perform such research and data gathering. <u>Houston Lighting & Power Co</u>. (South Texas Project, Units 1 & 2), LBP-80-11, 11 NRC 477, 478 (1980). Moreover, 10 C.F.R. § 2.72U(h)(2)(ii) only permits discovery against the Staff of information, <u>inter alia</u>, that is not reasonably obtainable from any other source. The requested information may also be requested from Daniel and Bechtel. Accordingly, the Staff objects to these interrogatories.

Interrogatory 82

This interrogatory provides:

State with respect to each of the following publications the answers to the following:

Publications:

PWR GALE Code, NUREG 0017

Regulatory Guide 1.21

Regulatory Guide 1.112

- (a) When was the document first published?
- (b) When was any revision published?
- (c) When was the document completed in final form (before being published);
- (d) When was any revision completed in final form (before being published);
- (e) List each nuclear facility from which data were collected in the preparation of each document and/or revision and state with respect to each facility the number of Effective Full Power Days.

State whether any revision of the document is presently being worked on and if so, the identity of each nuclear facility from which data have been or will be collected and how long each such facility has been in operation.

(f) State whether any revision of the document is presently being worked on and if so, the identity of each nuclear facility from which data have been or will be collected and how long each such facility has been in operation.

The Staff objects to subparts (e) and (f) of this interrogatory. As to subpart (e), once the requested publications are examined, by reading each document from beginning to end, "each nuclear facility from which the data were collected" will be listed and discussed within the document. Moreover, no such separate listing of each nuclear facility presently exists, other than the information contained in the publications. The Staff should not be required to perform the Joint Intervenors' discovery tasks of utilizing the provided documents for specific purposes. Once the Joint Intervenors read the documents for purposes of ascertaining each nuclear facility for which data was collected, the corresponding "full power days" for each facility can be obtained from NUREG 0020 (January 1981 issuance), a document which is publicly available. Accordingly, the Staff objects to subpart (e). <u>See also</u> <u>Houston Lighting & Power Co.</u>, <u>supra</u>.

For the same reason, the Staff also objects to subpart (f) except to state that a revision to NUREG-0017 is being considered and will be provided when completed and published. No revisions to Reg. Cuides 1.21 and 1.112 are being worked on.

Interrogatories 86 and 87

Interrogatories 86 and 87 state:

- 86. State the derivation of the maximum permissible concentrations (MPC) listed in 10 C.F.R. 20 Appendix B Table II and describe the relationship of Appendix B to 10 C.F.R. 20 Sections 105 and 106.
- 87. Identify a document in which the relationship described in answer to the preceding interrogatory is explained.

The Staff objects to these interrogatories because they are clearly aimed at questioning the basis of a Commission regulation, which fact is invalid and barred as a matter of law in adjudicatory proceedings. <u>Metropolitan Edison Co. et al.</u> (Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2), ALAB-456, 7, MRC 63, 65 (1978); 10 C.F.R. § 2.758. Since discovery is only permitted with respect to information which is either relevant to the controverted subject matter or which is likely to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence, $\frac{1}{}$ the Staff objects to interrogatories 86 and 87. No contention has been admitted by the Licensing Board which explores the derivation of the maximum permissible concentrations in 10 C.F.R. Part 20, as specified in the interrogatories, and such matters, relating to the derivation of these concentrations, would similarly not lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. As explained more fully in 10 C.F.R. § 2.758, this is not the forum for the Joint Intervenors to explore the derivations underlying the Commission's regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

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Roy P. Lessy Deputy Assistant Chief Hearing Counsel

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 26th day of June, 1981.

1/ See Allied-General Nuclear Sources et al. (Barnwell Fuel Receiving and Storage Station), LBP-77-13, 5 NRC 489 (1977).

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of "OBJECTIONS OF THE NRC STAFF TO JOINT INTERVENORS' FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES" in the above-captioned proceeding have been served on the following by deposit in the United States mail, first class, or, as indicated by an asterisk, through deposit in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's internal mail system, this 26th day of June, 1981:

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