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DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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November 30, 1989

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The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr Chairman The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

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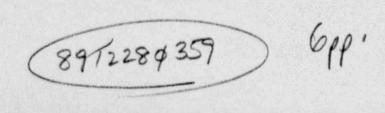
Dear Chairman Carr:

We write to ask that the granting of a full-power operating license for the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station not be unduly delayed by further deliberations of the Commission. As you know, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) considering the New Hampshire portion of the Seabrook Emergency Plan has recommended granting an Operating License. While questions remain outstanding concerning certain issues, including evacuation of those needing special assistance and sheltering space near the beaches, we concur with the judgement of the ASLB that these issues can be dealt with successfully and at negligible risk to the public. Consequently, we urge permitting Seabrook to operate commercially.

We note that the risks to the public are well within the safety goals, adopted by the Commission following proper public review process. This means that the risk to the portion of the population which is difficult to mobilize is small in terms of the risks they face from other causes of potential harm. We believe the plant should be licensed and that adequate provisions for dealing with the outstanding emergency issues should be resolved subsequently through actions to be agreed upon with NRC's regional administrator.

The electric energy from Seabrook will be needed during the coming summer – a peak demand season in New England. In order for it to be able to satisfy this demand it is necessary for the plant to move through the final testing to commercial operation by springtime. Consequently, the timing of your vote on this issue in the immediate future is very important. As residents of New England we are also concerned about the rising cost of the Seabrook plant. Through financial interest charges this cost grows by approximately \$1.3 million per day – at this stage purely as a result of licensing delay. Much of these costs are likely to be borne by the people of New England who can ill-afford waste on such a scale any longer. The harm which further operational delay imposes on the economy and the people of New England is much more certain than the highly unlikely accidents which may require evacuation around the plant.

The Seabrook licensing experience has been too long and in some ways illustrates the extreme costs which are possible with the present uncertainties in our system of safety regulation. It is well past time for this prolonged episode to end. We urge an affirmative and speedy vote on the plant's full-power operation license.



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The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr November 30, 1989 page two

Sincerely

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Commissioner Kenneth C. Rogers Commissioner Thomas M. Roberts

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, ET AL. (Seabrook Station, Units 1 and 2)

Docket No. (s) 50-443/444-0L

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing DNE LTR TO CARR DTD 11/30/89 have been served upon the following persons by U.S. mail, first class, except as otherwise noted and in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Sec. 2.712.

Administrative Judge

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The Honorable
Gordon J. Humphrey
ATTN: Janet Coit
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dated at Rockville, Md. this 11 day of December 1989

Office of the Secretary of the Connission