

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of)
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY) Docket Nos. 50-454
(Byron Station, Units 1 and 2)) 50-455

NRC STAFF ANSWER TO MOTION OF LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS OF ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

On March 12, 1980 the League of Women Voters of Rockford, Illinois (League) filed a Motion with the Board for the entry of an Order requiring the Staff to respond to interrogatories propounded by the intervenor on the same date.

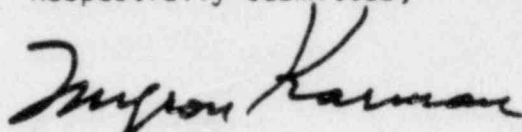
As of the present date the League has been accepted by the Board as an intervenor in this Operating License proceeding having shown the requisite interest in accordance with the Commission's rules, and agency decisions. This intervenor has been without counsel from the time of its filing of the petition for leave to intervene until a notice of appearance was filed on February 22, 1980. On March 10, 1980, pursuant to stipulation among Counsel for the Applicant, Staff and the League, the League filed a document entitled "Revised Contentions of Intervenor Rockford League of Women Voters." Some one hundred and forty six contentions were contained in the document. In due time responses to the contentions will be filed by the parties to this proceeding. It may be anticipated that there will be objection to some of the contentions submitted. The Board will determine which contentions are relevant and acceptable for this Operating License proceeding.

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The Interrogatories served on the Staff are keyed to each of the revised contentions submitted by the League on March 10, 1980. The Staff is of the opinion that the time is not ripe for either the submission of, or answers to interrogatories based on submitted contentions not yet accepted by the Board for adjudication in this proceeding. Discovery should not commence until such ruling is made. However, once such a decision has been entered, the Staff will, of course, follow its usual practice of voluntarily responding to all interrogatories, unless specific objection is made, in which case the reasons for objection shall be stated in lieu of an answer.

For the foregoing reasons, the Staff opposes the instant motion, and urges the Board to set a discovery schedule as soon as practicable, after the contentions have been ruled upon.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Myron Karman".

Myron Karman
Counsel for NRC Staff

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 26th day of March, 1980.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of "NRC STAFF ANSWER TO MOTION OF LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS" 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 March, 1980.

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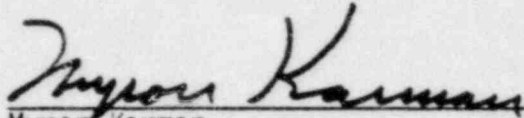
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