

information it seeks is not available from Applicants and public documents. The Staff believes the most expeditious path to follow is a speedy decision by the Licensing Board on these contested rulings, in view of the likely delay that would be entailed even by immediate certification. The Staff also believes discovery on the Palmetto Alliance contentions 6, 7, and 18, and CESC contentions 13 and 17 should be suspended pending such decision by the Licensing Board, or stayed in the event the Licensing Board sustains its rulings and/or certifies them to the Appeal Board. Such suspension or stay will avoid burdensome and potentially unnecessary discovery, as well as the necessity for Board rulings on disputed discovery. Finally, the Board must deny Palmetto Alliance's request for directions to the Staff to provide special assistance to Palmetto Alliance in the development of its case as such special assistance is prohibited by law.

Respectfully submitted,



George E. Johnson
Counsel for NRC Staff

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 7th day of May, 1982.

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