May 19, 1983

SECY-83-190

ADJUDICATORY ISSUE ION ONLY

For:

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From:

Herzel H.E. Plaine General Counsel

Subject:

COMMISSION REVIEW OF ALAB-687 (CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1&2)

Purpose:

To provide a proposed Order concluding. this review proceeding (SECY-82-457)

Discussion:

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Order concluding Commission review of ALAB-687. In ALAB-687, the Appeal Board held that Section 189a. of the Atomic Energy Act required a Licensing Board to admit adequately specific late-filed contentions based on information solely in licensing-related documents that were not required to be prepared early enough for the timely submittal of contentions.

believed that

We

Accordingly, we recommended

CONTACT: Sheldon L. Trubatch, OGC 634-3224

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Briefs have been received from all the parties as well as the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), the Atomic Industrial Forum (AIF) and a utility group. No participant has cited any precedent contradicting our previous legal analysis, and we have found none on our own. Nevertheless, the parties and UCS supported the Appeal Board's decision. The AIF and utility group believed that the Commission should apply the balancing test in 10 CFR 2.714(a). As for what constitutes a showing of good cause, the Applicant, staff, AIF and the utility group all agreed that such a late-filed contention must be based on information available only in licensing-related documents not required to be prepared early enough to provide a basis for the timely formulation of contentions.

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Herzel H.E. Plaine General Counsel

Attachment: Order

Commissioners' comments should be provided directly to the Office of the Secretary by c.o.b. Friday, June 3, 1983.

Commission Staff Office comments, if any, should be submitted to the Commissioners NLT Thursday, May 26, 1983, with an information copy to the Office of the Secretary. If the paper is of such a nature that it requires additional time for analytical review and comment, the Commissioners and the Secretariat should be apprised of when comments may be expected.

This paper is tentatively scheduled for affirmation at an Open Meeting during the Week of June 6, 1983. Please refer to the appropriate Weekly Commission Schedule, when published, for a specific date and time.

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