10778 SORDON J. HUMPHREY

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FOREIGN RELATIONS
UNNIC ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2901

'90 AUG 28 A8:53

August 21, 1990

BRANCH ACT

200 AUG 28 1990

The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr Chairman U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I want to express my serious concerns about issues raised in a letter to the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Judge Ivan Smith, by a former contractor to New Hampshire Yankee, regarding the adequacy of the New Hampshire Radiological Emergency Response Plan (NHREP).

The former contractor--Michael C. Sinclair--is an expert on emergency preparedness and presented testimony on a number of off-site emergency response planning issues. In his letter to Judge Smith, dated July 20, he states that at a time when Seabrook station is ascending to full power "...the state's ability to effectively implement the off-site emergency response called for under the litigated plan appears to be in question."

Specifically, Mr. Sinclair is concerned about the staffing levels for various key functions under the NHREP. Inasmuch as the facility has now ascended to full power, Mr. Sinclair's concerns take on even more importance.

NRC regulations correctly place an important priority on off-site emergency preparedness. Mr. Sinclair's concerns speak directly to the integrity of the New Hampshire plan. With the plant operating at full power, it would be irresponsible in the extreme to ignore these concerns. I urge the Commission to take a close look at the New Hampshire plan in light of Mr. Sinclairs' concerns. It will simply not do to paper over these concerns or to dismiss them with empty legalisms. The simple question is whether there will be sufficient staff to make this plan work in the event of an emergency should one occur at any time.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

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Gordon J. Humphrey, Juss

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

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

Docket No. (s) 50-443/444-DL

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing LTR 6/21 SEN. HUMPHREY TO CARR 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.

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Dated at Rockville, Md. this 28 day of August 1990 John Traficonte, Esq. Chief, Nuclear Safety Unit Office of the Attorney General One Ashburton Place, 19th Floor Boston, MA 02108

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