

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

May 9, 1977



OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

Mr. Phil Cogan  
TV News Assignment Editor  
King AM Hi TV  
320 Aurora Avenue North  
P. O. Box 24525  
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Mr. Cogan:

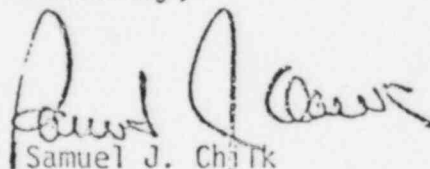
This responds to your letter of May 2, 1977, requesting permission to photograph the proceedings of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board hearing scheduled for May 11, 1977, in Seattle, Washington. I must advise you that your request is denied.

As you know, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the past has adhered to a policy of allowing camera coverage before adjudicatory hearings formally commence and during recesses. Licensing Board Chairmen normally grant requests of cameramen for several minutes of "shooting time" immediately before the session is called to order. However, the operation of cameras during the actual proceedings has been prohibited as the Commission considers them to be a source of distraction which would do harm to the adjudicatory process. Radio broadcast, if nondisruptive, and the use of tape recorders is allowed. The evidence adduced at these hearings is frequently complex and may involve controverted issues. The Commission has determined that its policy best assures a fair hearing to all participants to the proceeding and fosters sound licensing decisions by the Board and ultimately by the Commission itself.

The Commission intends to take a fresh look at its policy concerning camera coverage of its adjudicatory proceedings in the near future. As part of such reconsideration, requests like yours which indicate a willingness and ability to photograph unobtrusively and without additional lighting will certainly be evaluated.

Sincerely,

Same ltr. to:  
Mr. H. Mason Sizemore, Managing  
Editor  
The Seattle Times  
Fairfax Ave. North and John St.  
P. O. Box 70  
Seattle, Washington 98111

  
Samuel J. Chalk

Secretary of the Commission