

September 30, 1977

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Mr. Wayne R. Vriesman  
President  
Radio Television News  
Directors Association  
1735 DeSales Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Vriesman:

This responds to your letter of August 31, 1977, regarding the use of news cameras at the public hearings in Tulsa, Oklahoma, before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board on the construction permit applications for the Black Fox Station.

NRC licensing proceedings are open to the general public and media representatives. Radio broadcast and the use of tape recorders are allowed. The Commission in the past has adhered to a policy of allowing TV and other cameras to be used in hearing rooms only before and after each session of adjudicatory hearings and during recesses. Such a course was pursued in the Black Fox proceedings. However, the Commission does presently prohibit the operation of cameras during the actual proceedings on the grounds that their use would provide a source of distraction which might do harm to the adjudicatory process. Through this policy we have sought to achieve a proper balance between the right of the public to be fully informed about NRC's adjudicatory proceedings and the requirement that such proceedings be conducted with the order and decorum befitting their quasi-judicial nature. This practice is similar to that followed by the Federal courts. In short, we have attempted to assist the television media as much as possible consistent with our responsibility to conduct a fair and orderly proceeding.

I would like to note, however, that the Commission will be taking a fresh look at its policy concerning camera coverage of its licensing proceedings. As part of this reconsideration, requests like yours will certainly be evaluated.

bcc: GC:SUBJ  
GC:READING (2)  
GC:KELLEY  
GC:EILPERIN  
GC:FITZGERALD  
SECY (3)

Sincerely,  
Original signed by  
Joseph H. Hendrie

NOTE: Cleared by Cnrs. per  
OGC memo 9/29

Joseph H. Hendrie  
Chairman

GC	GC	GC	GC	GC	GC
Fitzgerald:sms	Eilperin	W.H. Davis	J.H. Hendrie		
9/29/77	9/1/77	9/29/77	9/29/77		
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