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Howard K. Shapar, Executive Legal Director
Nathaniel H. Goodrich, Chairman, ASLBP

CAMERA POLICY AT NRC LICENSING HEARINGS

Both Chairman Anders and Commissioner Mason have suggested the Commission review the policy for prohibiting still and TV camera coverage of licensing hearings while the hearings are in session.

You will recall that the Administrative Conference recommended in July of 1972 that agencies "encourage broadcast coverage--subject to appropriate limitations and controls to prevent disruption and protect witnesses." A copy of Roger Cramton's letter to former Chairman Schlesinger is enclosed. Subsequently, the Atomic Energy Commission decided to adhere to its policy.

We request that you provide us with your views on what we believe to be the three alternatives which the Commission has at this time. (If you have other alternative which should be explored, please advise us of them):

1. Adhere to the present policy of permitting cameras to be used in the hearing room before and after sessions and during recesses.
2. Provide certain periods during the hearing--possibly the first half hour of each session--where camera coverage is permitted, but only under the condition that there be fixed positions from which the cameras would operate. Artificial lighting would be permitted unless it was disruptive to the proceeding.
3. Permit camera coverage of all sessions of the hearing, subject to restrictions on camera positions.

Generally speaking, TV stations are shooting all their film in color and it usually will be necessary for them to have some artificial lighting.

We would appreciate your thoughts on this matter so that we can prepare a paper for Commission consideration.

John A. Harris, Director
Office of Public Affairs

OFFICE →
SURNAME →
DATE →

cc: L. V. Gossick, EDO