

October 3, 1977

Note to Joseph J. Fouchard, Acting Director
Office of Public Affairs

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NRC CAMERA POLICY

This responds to your memorandum of September 21, 1977 regarding the development of a Commission policy on the use of cameras in adjudicatory hearings conducted by NRC.

For many of the reasons stated in Alan Rosenthal's memo we are inclined to retain the current status quo as to NRC camera policy. We would, however, recommend consideration of another alternative by the Commission. This would involve the application of Alternative 3 for a trial period. This would enable the NRC to develop an experience factor before reaching a final decision. However, even if the trial period recommendation were utilized it must be clear that an NRC camera policy not preclude the NRC from using Federal, State or local courtrooms where there is a "no camera" policy in effect. If such ideal facilities are available for hearings the NRC should utilize them and conform to the camera policy in effect regarding such facilities.

Even if the survey being conducted by the Licensing Board Panel indicates that cameras are permitted during hearings conducted by other agencies, the NRC should not undertake to adopt such a policy until it has the benefit of the trial period experience. NRC hearings are sufficiently unique to warrant the development of an experience factor before plunging ahead with a policy permitting the use of cameras during hearings.



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