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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

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Before Administrative Judges:

Lawrence Brenner, Chairman
Dr. George A. Ferguson
Dr. Peter A. Morris

SERVED AUG 17 1983

In the Matter of
LONG ISLAND LIGHTING COMPANY
(Shoreham Nuclear Power Station,
Unit 1)

Docket No. 50-322-0L

August 16, 1983

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER
DEFERRING FILING OF TESTIMONY AND
COMMENCEMENT OF HEARING ON DIESEL GENERATORS

On Saturday, August 13, 1983, Counsel for LILCO informed Judge Brenner by telephone that one of the three emergency diesel generators at Shoreham had failed the previous evening. The failure occurred during preoperational testing of the diesel generator following the installation of eight new cylinder heads. In the course of the test, the engine experienced significant vibrations and load fluctuations and was shutdown. A subsequent inspection revealed that the main crankshaft, which is a component approximately 20 feet long and having an 11 to 12 inch diameter, had severed or sheared during the testing. LILCO's Counsel also stated that the Staff and County had been

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informed of the incident, had authorized the ex parte call to the Board, and had agreed with LILCO's request, made during the telephone call, to indefinitely defer both the August 17, 1983 due date for filing of testimony and the August 29, 1983 date for commencement of the hearing on the issue of the cracking of the diesel cylinder heads.

Judge Brenner stated at that time that there were hearing schedule factors for the parties and the Board to consider, and that he was not prepared to grant the delay on the basis of the telephone request and the partial preliminary information then available on the August 12 diesel failure. He directed LILCO to file a written request for deferral of testimony and hearing, including the relationship of the August 12 diesel failure to the testimony to be filed, and to the other diesel issue regarding vibration, so that the motion is received by August 15, 1983. LILCO was directed to advise the County and the Staff of this directive. LILCO was required to either include the position of the Staff and the County in its filing or to inform these other parties to file their views, also by August 15, 1983.

On Monday morning, August 15, however, the Staff requested that a conference call be held to clarify the parties' positions as it believed LILCO's views on the deferral of these matters to have changed. Representatives for all interested parties took part in this conference call. As no member of the Licensing Board was available to participate at the time, however, the Board was represented by its Counsel, Mr. Daniel F. Brown.

LILCO stated during the call that in light of Judge Brenner's concerns regarding scheduling, it stood ready to comply with the original testimony filing date and hearing dates established by the Board. It acknowledged, however, that it did not yet know the cause of the crankshaft failure or whether the failure was related to either the cylinder head cracking or vibration issues raised by the County's diesel generator contention. LILCO further acknowledged that it could not be sure that this information would be known by the scheduled August 29, 1983 start of the hearings on this contention.

The County and the Staff agreed that they too stood ready to go forward with the filing of testimony on this contention and the litigation of this issue if the Board so ordered. The Staff indicated, however, that it would likely be impossible for it to state any position on the adequacy of LILCO's engineering judgment within the time frames scheduled by the Board for the filing of direct testimony and for the evidentiary hearings on these issues, so long as the causes of the crankshaft failure remained unknown.

Later in the day on August 15, LILCO telecopied its "Report and Request for Temporary Deferral" to the Board, requesting that the filing of testimony and litigation of the cylinder head cracking contention be held in abeyance until more could be learned about the causes and ramifications of the crankshaft failure. In a supplement to this filing dated August 16, 1983, LILCO indicated that its preliminary view is that the crankshaft failure is not related to the cylinder head cracking contention, although it acknowledged that it lacked sufficient knowledge

to reach any firm conclusion. LILCO's written filings do not address the possible relationship of the crankshaft failure to the vibration issue raised by Suffolk County.

The County and the Staff support LILCO's request for the deferral of the filing of testimony and start of evidentiary hearings on the emergency diesel generators. In separate written responses dated August 15 and 16, respectively, both the Staff and the County indicate that the relationship between the crankshaft failure and either the cylinder head cracking or the vibration issues is not yet known. Furthermore, these parties state that it would take several weeks, at a bare minimum, to determine the cause(s) of this failure. The Staff also states that those of its personnel who will be involved in the evidentiary hearings before this Board will be involved in the examination and inspection of the diesels.

In light of the unanimous views of the involved parties that the relationship of the crankshaft failure to either the cylinder head cracking or vibration aspects of Suffolk County's diesel generator contention cannot be determined without at least several weeks' examination of the cause(s) of that failure, the Board hereby grants LILCO's request for a temporary deferral of the August 17, 1983 testimony filing date and the August 29, 1983 start of evidentiary hearings on the emergency diesel generators.

By August 25, 1983, LILCO, the County and the Staff will submit a status report to the Board detailing the progress which has been made to date in determining the cause(s) of the crankshaft failure, the parties'

positions as to whether this failure is related to either aspect of the County's diesel generator contention, and the parties' proposals for future actions and scheduling in the case. This report may be submitted by the parties either jointly or individually, but should in any event reflect a coordination of efforts and views among the parties.

Also deferred by this Order is the joint status report of the parties on the vibration aspect of the County's contention originally due August 17, 1983. The substance of what would have appeared in that status report is to be updated and incorporated as part of the August 25, 1983 status report described above.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

FOR THE ATOMIC SAFETY
AND LICENSING BOARD

Lawrence Brenner /DFB
Lawrence Brenner, Chairman
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Bethesda, Maryland
August 16, 1983