



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



DOCKET NUMBER
PROD. & URL NO. 50-445/446

July 25, 1983

Hon. George R. Crump
County Judge
County of Somervell
County Courthouse
Glen Rose, Texas 76043

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Dear Judge Crump:

Thank you for your letter of July 12. Let me assure you that the Licensing Board considers every issue concerning the Comanche Peak Nuclear Plant to be an important issue.

When we used the term "important safety issue" in our recent decision, we used a term of art. We appreciate the importance of conformance with all safety regulations concerning this plant. However, as a Licensing Board we have limited resources and our jurisdiction is restricted to issues raised by the parties and to those that are so important that we must raise them ourselves. Regardless of whether we assert our jurisdiction, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State of Texas and the County of Somervell have important responsibilities that they should discharge conscientiously, in the public interest.

Our emergency planning decision expressed serious concern about the depth of review being conducted by FEMA. The purpose of expressing concern was to suggest that we could become directly concerned in this issue.

When we decide whether this was an "important safety issue" (as used in regulations governing the declaration of sua sponte questions), we will consider all relevant factors, including the responsibility of other agencies of government, the extensiveness of the FEMA review and local factors, such as the relationship between population and road capacity. These all relate to whether the issue is sufficiently important for the Board to raise it sua sponte, an unusual authority whose exercise is closely monitored by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and must be used judiciously. Even if we do not raise this issue ourselves, it is important that the agencies responsible for emergency planning perform appropriately.

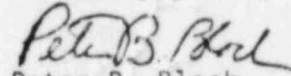
Our rules of procedural rules permit representatives of an interested county to participate. 10 CFR § 2.715 (c). If you wish, you may file a request to participate with the Secretary of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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Thank you for your interest. I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely yours,



Peter B. Bloch

Chairman

Comanche Peak Licensing Board

cc: Service List
Docket Nos. 50-445, 50-446