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RELATED CORRESPONDENCE

GRAY, ALLISON & BECKER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1001 VAUGHN BUILDING

807 BRAZOS

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2553

RICHARD E. GRAY, III
JAMES P. ALLISON
DOUGLAS M. BECKER

TELEPHONE
(512) 482-0061

February 7, 1985

FEB 11 11:20

Mr. Jack R. Newman
Newman & Holtzinger, P.C.
1615 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Docket Nos. 50-4980L and 50-4990L

Dear Mr. Newman:

I am in receipt of the correspondence between you and Mr. Lanny Sinkin, along with an article from the Austin American-Statesman, a copy of which is attached hereto, regarding the request by your law firm for allegedly publicly available records from the Selective Service System.

At this late date, the characterization of this request for the personal records of an opposing attorney/advocate as a routine background check into his qualifications, is "fanciful" at best. Can we deduce a tacit admission that your client, Houston Lighting & Power Company, directed your firm, as its attorneys of record in the licensing proceeding, to make such a request?

If the request was not an attempt to harm Mr. Sinkin professionally or personally, nothing is preventing you from coming forward and providing the real basis for such a request. I, for one, cannot imagine any possible motivation that is rationally related or in any way relevant to the issues involved in the licensing proceeding, beyond the preparation for a potential public relations smear of Mr. Sinkin.

The request and your response reflects badly on your character, the character of your law firm, and the character of your client. These "characters" are precisely what is still at issue in the licensing proceeding. It amazes me that you justify and condone this unseemly activity of your staff rather than publicly apologize for it.

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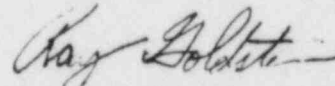
Mr. Jack R. Newman
February 7, 1985
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Finally, it is my understanding that the Selective Service System, through an extremely conservative and, in my opinion, erroneous interpretation of the Privacy Act, has refused to release to Intervenor a copy of the request submitted to it by your firm's paralegal. At the very least, considering your reliance on public record request procedures denoted in 32 CFR Section 1665.7, Intervenor desires that you make your public record request public immediately.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Very truly yours,

GRAY & BECKER



Ray Goldstein

RG:ks
Enclosure
cc: Service List

Law firm on Nuke project seeking draft records of foe

By BILL MCCANN

American-Statesman Staff

A law firm hired to help get a federal operating license for the South Texas Nuclear Project has been trying to get the military draft records of an opponent in the case.

The firm of Newman & Holtzinger of Washington, D.C., has tried to get the records of Lahn Sinkin, a former Austin resident and longtime opponent of the nuclear project. The law firm represents the Houston Lighting & Power Co., the managing partner of the nuclear project, in the licensing proceedings.

SINKIN, 33, discovered the inquiry last week and sent a letter of protest to officials of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and other parties in the licensing proceedings. Sinkin accused the firm of attempting to damage him personally or professionally by seeking the 20-year-old records.

Jack Newman, a principal of the

firm, acknowledged that the inquiry was made but insisted the firm had done nothing wrong. Houston Lighting & Power knew about the inquiry, Newman said.

The inquiry was merely a routine check into the background of the sole adversary in the licensing case, Newman said. He said the investigation was confined to the Selective Service inquiry, and only information that was in the public record was sought.

"Normally, we want to be aware of the background, qualifications, and credibility of the individuals we are facing," Newman said. "It is part of the kinds of inquiries one makes."

Sinkin, who has been involved in the proceedings since 1979, wondered why the firm waited until recently to begin checking him out.

"My draft history has been public knowledge for years," Sinkin said. "All they had to do was check the newspapers."

Sinkin said he registered for the

draft in the mid-1960s and left the country later as a personal protest against the Vietnam War. He was never called to military service because his number in the draft lottery was too high, so he never violated the law, he said.

SINKIN, A native of San Antonio, lived in Austin, where he headed a group called the South Texas Cancellation Campaign, until last fall. He then was named director of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, a national anti-nuclear power group in Washington.

He continues to be a formal intervenor in the federal licensing proceedings for the South Texas project.

Sinkin said he discovered the inquiry when the Selective Service sent him a letter by mistake. The source of the inquiry was traced to an employee of Newman and Holtzinger.

"I am appalled, but not really surprised that they would do this kind of thing," he said.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING APPEAL BOARD

In the Matter of

HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER
COMPANY, ET AL.

(South Texas Project, Units 1
and 2)

Docket Nos. 50-498 OL
50-499 OL

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the letter from Ray Goldstein to Jack Newman dated February 7, 1985, have been served on the following individuals and entities by deposit in the United States mail, first class, postage prepaid, this 7th day of February 1985.

Gary J. Edles, Esq.
Chairman, Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing
Appeal Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dr. W. Reed Johnson
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing
Appeal Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Charles Bechhoefer, Esq.
Chairman, Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing
Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dr. James C. Lamb, III
Administrative Judge
313 Woodhaven Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Thomas S. Moore, Esq.
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing
Appeal Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Brian Berwick, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
for the State of Texas
Environmental Protection
Division
P.O. Box 12548, Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

Kim Eastman, Co-coordinator
Barbara A. Miller
Pat Coy
Citizens Concerned About
Nuclear Power
5106 Casa Oro
San Antonio, TX 78233

Ernest E. Hill
Administrative Judge
Hill Associates
210 Montego Drive
Danville, CA 94526

Mrs. Peggy Buchorn
Executive Director
Citizens for Equitable
Utilities, Inc.
Route 1, Box 1684
Brazoria, TX 77422

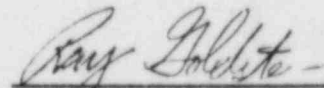
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Docketing and Service Section
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Lanny Alan Sinkin
NIRS, Room 401
1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Oreste Russ Pirfo, Esq.
Robert G. Perlis, Esq.
Office of the Executive Legal
Director
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Atomic Safety and Licensing
Appeal Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555



Ray Goldstein