

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD  
Before Administrative Judges:  
Ivan W. Smith, Chairman  
Dr. Walter H. Jordan  
Dr. Linda W. Little



SERVED JUN 10 1981

In the Matter of )  
METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY )  
(Three Mile Island Nuclear )  
Station, Unit 1 )

Docket No. 50-289  
(Restart)  
June 9, 1981

CONFIRMATORY MEMORANDUM AND ORDER  
ON RULINGS MADE AT JUNE 4, 1981 HEARING SESSION

For the reasons stated on the record of the June 4, 1981 hearing session, the board ruled on several pending motions, as follows:

1. The motion of UCS to require further evidence on the subject of PORV block valve testing was denied. (Tr. 21, 836-38).

2. The motions of Mr. Sholly to take official notice of various matters, including portions of NUREG-0667 and a review of the B&W ICS analysis, were denied. (Tr. 21, 838-40).

3. The motion of UCS to take official notice of the failure rates for diesel generators reported in WASH-1400 was denied. (Tr. 21, 840-41).

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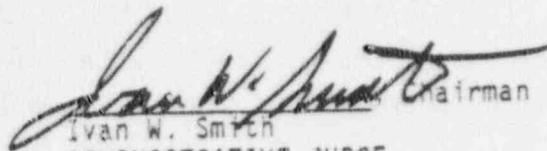


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In addition, the board admitted licensee's Restart Report, as amended through amendment number 25, into evidence as licensee exhibit 1. Due to the fact that the Restart Report had been recently amended, its admission into evidence was made subject to a timely objection or other request for relief. (Tr. 21, 830-35). Any such motions received by the Chairman after June 19, 1981 will be untimely. The timeliness of motions received by June 19 will be determined on an individual basis.

Copies of the transcript pages referenced above, Tr. 21, 830-41, are attached for the convenience of the parties.

FOR THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND  
LICENSING BOARD

  
Ivan W. Smith, Chairman  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Bethesda, Maryland  
June 9, 1981

1 MR. ZAHLER: Other item on my list was putting  
2 the Licensee's Restart Report into evidence.

3 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Mr. Chairman, we have the three  
4 copies of the Restart Report, four volumes each in boxes in  
5 the other room. They have been updated through the last and  
6 final amendment, Amendment 25. We could dump them on the  
7 reporter if she is able to handle them. If necessary, we  
8 might go off the record and determine some other way of  
9 delivering them.

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Of course the one in the hearing  
11 room is a loaner copy from the licensee. We don't know if  
12 that one is up to date or not. I doubt if it is.

13 MR. TROWBRIDGE: My understanding is that it does  
14 not have either Amendment 24 or 25 yet.

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Nor does our copy in Bethesda.  
16 Therefore, it would be helpful if one of those three, if we  
17 could take it and be responsible for delivering it to the  
18 Secretary when we finish it. So if you could deliver one of  
19 the three.

20 You probably don't have a lot of those, do you?

21 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Just three copy of the Restart  
22 Report in the other room which have been completed with the  
23 new amendments put in and checked.

24 Your request is for an additional copy?

25 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, our request is either if

1 you have an additional copy, yes, it would be helpful. If  
2 you do not have an additional, then if you could deliver one  
3 of the three official exhibits to the Board for its use  
4 during the decision and we would then return it to the  
5 Commission, the Secretary, when we are completed with it.

6 MR. TROWBRIDGE: That is fine.

7 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The other two with coordination  
8 with the Reporter can be delivered to the Secretary.

9 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Let's do that. We will return  
10 this one now, constructively as of now, and then if you  
11 could follow that procedure, give one of the updated ones to  
12 us. Dr. Little has one completed through 24. 25, as I  
13 recall, is rather substantial, isn't it?

14 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I think it would be very helpful  
16 if we could have one that we know to be complete and  
17 accurate.

18 MR. TROWBRIDGE: I take it the Board has received  
19 it in evidence.

20 MR. ADLER: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of  
21 comments to make on that. The Commonwealth of course  
22 doesn't object to the Restart Report being introduced into  
23 evidence. However, the Board is aware that it is a very  
24 difficult document to keep up with all the information.  
25 Amendments 24 and 25 have come very, very recently,

1 particularly Amendment 25. I know that Mr. Downsife has not  
2 had an opportunity to review Amendment 25.

3 In addition, I would point out that the Restart  
4 Report affects probably every party and every issue in the  
5 proceeding and many of the parties aren't here to object to  
6 any new information that might be in Amendments 24 and 25.

7 So what I would propose is that we have perhaps  
8 two weeks, that the Restart Report be introduced  
9 conditionally and that the parties can file any written  
10 comments or objections within that time period.

11 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I think this falls  
12 in the same category as the staff's Safety Evaluation  
13 Reports or as the PSAR or FSAR would in the normal operating  
14 license proceeding. That is, I think it is sufficient that  
15 the Restate Report was prepared, was sent in under I believe  
16 under oath and affidavit of the officials of the company and  
17 that it belongs in evidence.

18 Now, like the SERS, if a party makes out a case  
19 that this calls for reopening of the proceeding in some way,  
20 that is always fair game. It shouldn't happen here because  
21 the Restart Report really is a compilation of amendments to  
22 it or a compilation of the commitments we have made to the  
23 staff which are now reflected in SERS and testimony, but I  
24 won't rule out the possibility that there is something to be  
25 regarded as new material but I think it should go into

1 evidence.

2 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Well, I don't think there is an  
3 objection to that. A motion to reopen a record normally  
4 would require a larger showing than the request made by Mr.  
5 Adler. Perhaps when we consider what the circumstances were  
6 of Amendment 25 it might be that that showing is not so  
7 great that there is no practical difference.

8 So I think the better approach is to receive it  
9 into evidence, but a motion to reopen the record would have  
10 to be judged upon the normal standards of timeliness. These  
11 things cannot be weighted so accurately that I can't see  
12 which is the prejudicial or which is nonprejudicial.

13 So it is received.

14 (The amended 4 Volumes of the  
15 Licensee's Restart Report,  
16 previously identified as  
17 Licensee Exhibit No. 1, were  
18 received into evidence.)

19 MR. ZAHLER: Mr. Chairman, I don't have anything  
20 else on my list but for scheduling and some matters that  
21 fall out of scheduling.

22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Did you say you have 14 items. I  
23 am only down to 11.

24 MR. ZAHLER: I think I said I had 13. One is  
25 scheduling and there are two matters that are so

1 intrinsically wound up with scheduling that it doesn't pay  
2 to discuss them unless we discuss scheduling.

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: The Restart Report has already  
4 been identified as Licensee Exhibit 1 at transcript 2,881.

5 Well, is it the pleasure of the parties to try to  
6 wind up our business this evening?

7 MR. TROWBRIDGE: That would be our preference.

8 MS. GAIL BRADFORD: Yes.

9 MS. STRAUBE: Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Everyone's.

11 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Could I ask the Board, is it the  
12 Board's intention today to rule on the adequacy of the EIA?

13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: No. We do have some other  
14 pending motions, however, that we want to rule on orally.

15 So let's take a 15-minute break and then we will  
16 come back and talk about scheduling and clean up our other  
17 motions.

18 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

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1 Board now accepts those transcript pages as the record of  
2 this proceeding, with the exception that Dr. Little wants to  
3 know who Mr. Bennett was here on page 21,664. So we will  
4 correct that transcript to show that it was Mr. Brenner who  
5 was here, and not Mr. Bennett. Mr. Brenner was noted as  
6 being Mr. Bennett.

7           The block valve motions, we are denying the Union  
8 of Concerned Scientists' motion based upon three  
9 considerations. One is the letter from Mr. Baxter that the  
10 restart test planning specification indicates that the block  
11 valve will be cycled with the PORV opened to confirm its  
12 ability to close against flow, as he points that there is no  
13 intent to pass solid water, or two-phased steam.  
14 Another consideration is the evidentiary record which  
15 reflects the role of the PORV and the block valve.

16           The third consideration is that it seems to be the  
17 understanding of the parties that the test program is  
18 beginning, and we see no value in pursuing the matter in an  
19 evidentiary record right now. However, it is possible that  
20 when we consider the issue on the merits, after we  
21 considered the proposed findings, considered the function of  
22 the PORV and the block valve, that we might, in our initial  
23 decision or before, probably in our initial decision,  
24 recommend to the Commission that the Commission direct the  
25 staff to report to the Commission concerning the results of

1 tests which would be relevant to this proceeding.

2           As I say, this is a tentative ruling, but the  
3 Board does have concerns about the issue. We just now  
4 believe that for the three considerations that we named that  
5 they will be resolved in the evidentiary record at this  
6 time.

7           MR. ADLER: Could you possibly repeat the first  
8 ground, I did not catch all of it.

9           CHAIRMAN SMITH: There are three considerations  
10 which lead us to conclude that we will not require evidence  
11 to be presented on the issue now. You want those three  
12 repeated?

13           MR. ADLER: Just the first.

14           CHAIRMAN SMITH: The first one is Mr. Baxter's  
15 letter of June 1st, 1981, that the block valve will be  
16 cycled with the POBY open to confirm its ability to close  
17 against flow.

18           MR. ADLER: Thank you.

19           DR. LITTLE: It was one of my main concerns that  
20 the block valve and POBY that is actually in the TMI I be  
21 demonstrated that it will indeed operate. The motions that  
22 were raised concerning the adequacy of the flow range tests,  
23 and so on, were of less concern considerably than that they  
24 might reflect on the safety of the actual valve that is  
25 there, and we want to make sure that that block valve is

1 indeed test prior to restart.

2           CHAIRMAN SMITH: In sum, our ruling on it reflects  
3 our belief now that the problem is one that can be shifted  
4 from the short-term consideration to the long-term  
5 consideration, particularly when you look at the three  
6 considerations that we have listed.

7           Official notice -- We have Mr. Sholly's motion of  
8 April 28, 1981, to take official notice on portions of  
9 NUREG-0667, and a motion of May 1st, 1981, with respect to a  
10 ORNL review of the B&W analysis of integrated control  
11 system, in which he is largely concerned about a comparison  
12 of drafts with the original.

13           The other item is the Palisades civil penalty  
14 case, where it was alleged that there is an open valve, and  
15 he wishes to official notice that tech specs can be violated  
16 by human error resulting in defeat of containment  
17 isolation.

18           This, I might note parenthetically because we  
19 will not get to it in our ruling, I am the Administrative  
20 Law Judge presiding over that case, and indeed that is a  
21 very currently contested issue, whether the facts he wishes  
22 officially noticed are, in fact, undisputed.

23           The third category is the NER status report on  
24 feedwater transients in B&W plants. As we advised the  
25 parties earlier, we are denying the motion for official

1 notice. The basic problem with Mr. Sholly's motion is that  
2 it is opposed, and when this happens, for all practical  
3 purposes, the requests for official notice become very  
4 similar to any other offer of evidence.

5           We may officially notice scientific facts within  
6 the knowledge of the Commission as an expert body, but in  
7 those instances there must be a full opportunity to each  
8 party adversely affected to controvert the fact. In this  
9 instance, not only do we have a failure of opportunity to  
10 controvert the facts, which were to be officially noticed,  
11 but they are not limited to the category of scientific facts  
12 within the knowledge of the Commission as an expert body.  
13 There are many items of opinion, and there is a wide array  
14 of data.

15           There is also the type of official notice that we  
16 can take in our proceedings, which equivalent to judicial  
17 notice that may be taken by United States Courts, and those  
18 facts must be facts which are not subject to reasonable  
19 dispute, and that they are generally known, or capable of  
20 accurate and ready determination by sources the accuracy of  
21 which cannot reasonably be questioned. Of course, in this  
22 instance, the facts which Mr. Sholly would have us  
23 officially notice are reasonably disputed.

24           Apparently, Mr. Sholly did not intend to pursue  
25 the offer over objections, because he does not address

1 either standard, nor does he discuss any opportunity to  
2 controvert the facts he would have us officially notice, nor  
3 does he discuss the issue of timeliness.

4 I understand that when Mr. Sholly was informed of  
5 this ruling, he said that he wanted to offer this evidence  
6 nevertheless, and to have it in the rejected evidence file.  
7 I presume that he will do that when he receives a copy of  
8 our ruling.

9 The UCS motion will have to fail. The motion from  
10 UCS relates to failure rates for diesel generators as  
11 reported in WASH-1400. I don't have those papers. Did the  
12 staff file a paper in opposition to that official notice, or  
13 did you make it orally?

14 MR. TOURTELLOTTE: No, we have not yet filed a  
15 response. I think a response is due actually sometime after  
16 today, and what we intended to do was simply to try to state  
17 our position orally here today.

18 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Do you oppose it?

19 MR. TOURTELLOTTE: We oppose it, and we oppose it  
20 for basically the same legal reasons as stated in our Sholly  
21 brief.

22 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Of course, the licensee does, and  
23 that goes back to the same problem, whenever there is  
24 opposition to a request to take official notice, you run  
25 into traditional evidentiary problems which pertain to the

1 WASH-1400 study, and in large degree those facts are fairly  
2 disputable, there is no opportunity to controvert them, they  
3 are not facts which can be taken within the institutional  
4 knowledge of the Commission. For that reason, we must deny  
5 the motion to take official notice.

6           However, the Board thinks a note of caution might  
7 be appropriate here. Dr. Jordan, you will recall, was  
8 somewhat concerned about the testimony on the reliability of  
9 diesel generators, and he cross-examined on WASH-1400.  
10 There is a possibility that when we begin to read the  
11 proposed findings on the issue, that we might find that we  
12 might have difficulty in resolving the issue, or deciding the  
13 issue.

14           We have no inclination that way, but we are just  
15 going from our memory, from the testimony, and the  
16 difficulty with the testimony. When we read the proposed  
17 findings, perhaps our concerns will be resolved, but perhaps  
18 they might not be.

19           Now we have the question of the thyroid.

20           DR. JORDAN: This has to do with the Board Order  
21 of May 14th, and my calculation of the thyroid dose, which  
22 we asked for responses. We have received responses from the  
23 staff and from the licensee. The licensee agreed, except  
24 for possibly the value of the energy of disintegration. I  
25 have no grief with the particular value I used, and it makes