

51-401
PUBLIC DOCUMENTS ROOM



Mr. Sheldon J. Wolfe, Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

October 29, 1978

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

This letter is an elaboration of my objections to your conduct of the Allen's Creek nuclear power plant hearings, as stated in the mailgram sent October 28 (also signed by Ann Wharton).

I am a single working mother trying to voice my legitimate concerns about a highly controversial project which would be built within 30 miles of my home. Instead of making it as easy as possible for me to participate in public hearings, you-- a public official whose salary I pay through taxes --have made participation a difficult, if not impossible task. To be specific:

1. Your schedule has been extremely rushed, putting citizens who wish to intervene at a tremendous disadvantage compared to the nuclear power plant applicant, with a battery of lawyers at its disposal. For example: On October 25 Ms. Joyce McDow of your office phoned to tell me that a prehearing conference was scheduled for November 17. (This meant I had to mail my supplementary petition, stating my contentions in detail, by November 2. November 2 is the deadline because of your requirement that the contentions be filed "not later than fifteen days prior" to the prehearing.) Ms. McDow said announcements of the prehearing would be mailed to petitioners but that she was also calling us because of the short time until the prehearings. I asked Ms. McDow then to express ~~to you my strong~~ objection to this rush-rush schedule, and repeated my objection in the mailgram of October 28. ~~The Texas Attorney General's~~ General's office (through Mr. Richard Lowerre) opposes your unseemly haste. Your own Rules of Practice states that 30 days' notice is required in most similar actions. I cannot possibly prepare adequate contentions in the five working days you have allowed me.

2. You scheduled the prehearing on a weekday during working hours. I must take time off from my job (vacation time).

3. You arrange for us to meet at the airport! A more inconvenient location for most of the petitioners would be hard to find. It will be an hour's drive each way for me.

4. You seek to unreasonably narrow the range of issues we can raise at the prehearing and hearing, to changes in the proposed plant since 1975! It seems that although nuclear power plants are undoubtedly the most controversial and hazardous energy generators being built, we are to argue only about the layout of pipes and the position of gaskets. This puts petitioners in an almost hopeless position.

5. You have not supplied us with information to which we are entitled. You mailed me copies of only 10 petitioners' statements (out of about 30). We have not received the final environmental and safety reports on the proposed Allen's Creek project, on which we might base the specific objections to

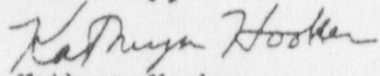
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the plant which you require.

I hope to hear from you soon on these objections, filed within the deadline of five days from announcement of the prehearing (10 C.F.R. 2.751 (d)).

Sincerely,



Kathryn Hooker
1424 Kipling
Houston, Texas

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- Hon. Jimmy Carter, President
- Baker & Botts
- Lowenstein, Newman, Reis & Axelrad
- Steve Sohinki
- Chase R. Stevens
- Richard Lowerre
- Rep. Ron Waters
- Rep. Mickey Leland
- Editor, Houston Chronicle
- Editor, Houston Post
- John Hill