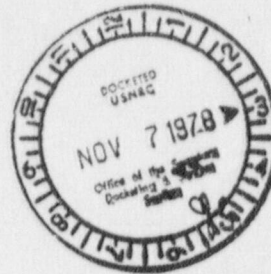


NRC PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM

Lee Loe (Ms.)
Nov. 2, 1978

DOCKET NUMBER
PROC & UTIL FAC 50-466



The Secretary of the Commission
U. S. N. R. C.
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Docketing and Services Branch

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is to comply with your request that I file a contention as an intervener; I do so with the complaint that there has been very little time allowed for this to be done well

This is to comply with your request that I file a contention as an intervener in the Allen's Creek Nuclear Power Plant request by Houston Lighting and Power Plant. I do so under duress; I have been given insufficient time to prepare the indepth report but will do the best I can. Please do not fault any of the interveners if these contentions do not stand up to the legal criterion you seem to demand. If an ordinary citizen with an ordinary income is to have some voice in a matter of life and death, as this is, you have no right to demand legal expertise as a prerequisite for validity in this suit. I also feel that a person's inability to afford 24 copies of each communication to the NRC should not mean a person could not be an intervener in this suit.

I shall try to address to the complaint that interveners did not mention items which took place after 1975, although I do not feel that the timing of an event has anything to do with whether or not it applies in a case.

In my original letter I mention the "proven dangers to life--"

Early in 1978 a series of hearings was conducted by the House of Representatives subcommittee on health and the environment showing that low levels of radiation may be quite harmful as shown by the following: 1) a 14-year study showing a significant incidence of cancer of the lung, pancreas and bone marrow among workers exposed to low-level radiation in nuclear weapons plants; 2) a study showing a high mortality rate from cancer, especially leukemia, for workers exposed to radiation at the Portsmouth, New Hampshire Naval Shipyard; 3) a study finding a significant incidence of cancer among workers at the Hanford temporary disposal facility in Washington; and 4) a study finding a significant rise and decline in infant mortality in Illinois as compared to all neighboring states correlating directly with the rise and decline of radioactive emissions from a nuclear power reactor near Chicago. The radioactive waste produced, transported from and stored as a result of the Allen's Creek plant will be high-level, not low-level waste. Added to this is a study reported in 1977, I believe, by a renowned British epidemiologist, Dr. Alice Stewart that documents the grave cancer risk associated with low levels of radiation, suggesting, while not yet allowing for any scientific conclusion, that women are more susceptible to radiation contamination than are men.

I also mentioned the necessity for no human errors, and pure human and corporate motivation-

Because of the potential danger represented by nuclear power, workers must make no mistakes, equipment must not malfunction, and worker safety and community well-being must take precedence over personal and corporate "money in the pocket." Recent history makes this highly unlikely. On April 26, 1976 Dr. Karl Z. Morgan commented on the case of Karen Silkwood, a worker for the Kerr-McGee Plant in Oklahoma (although this original action took place before 1975, much information has come to light since that time). He said "I consider (Karen) Silkwood's contamination to be one of the worst cases with which I am familiar, of body contamination to plutonium with respect to the consistency, repetition (of exposure), and contamination of the home...I have never known of an operation in this industry so poorly operated from the standpoint of radiation protection." Information uncovered by the prosecution in the Silkwood case (The Environmental Policy Center, the National Organization of Women, the ACLU are all parties in this litigation as are Karen's parents) include the following which are significant to the health and safety of the workers and the community, and which indicate that the Plant was laxly run: the existence of large amount of unaccounted-for plutonium in the Kerr-McGee facility; faulty plutonium fuel rods were produced and passed off through falsification of quality control records; radioactive waste was dumped by the management into the local river where citizens swam and fished; insecure and improper storage was provided for plutonium, and resulted in leakage and the consequent contamination of workers and the local people; a poor quality mixture of plutonium waste and acid was transported in unprotected trucks, increasing the risks of leakage; there was inadequate education of workers about the dangers of plutonium; unskilled and untrained non-nuclear workers for the plant were hired which resulted in increased accidents and contamination; Kerr-McGee officials were warned in advance of inspections by the AEC which places a lack of concern for the citizens of Oklahoma, U. S. A. in the laps of the federal agency which, at the time, was to protect them from nuclear problems of health and safety.

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One need search through recent files on the asbestos industry, the agriculture industry, the oil industry to find examples of the lack of concern for workers and their health, safety and general well being; yes, the coal industry, too. A coal worker cannot take black lung disease home to his family or with him to the grocery store and give it to those who come near him or who sit where he has sat--but a worker from a nuclear power plant contaminates others with his own contamination.

One problem area I mentioned is that of disposal of nuclear wastes generated by power plants.

In April, 1978 the U. S. House committee on government operations made a report which stated: "After 30 years of atomic power, neither the federal government nor the nuclear industry has managed to produce a safe and cost-effective solution to the problem of radioactive waste disposal, thereby threatening the future of nuclear power in the United States." In their report of May 1, 1978 the U. S. Geological Survey said, "Geologists can indicate sites which have been relatively stable in the past, but they cannot guarantee future stability. Construction of a repository and emplacement of waste will initiate complex processes that cannot, at present, be predicted with certainty." According to an article in the June 9, 1978 issue of The Texas Observer "Federal Energy Research and Development Administration officials predicted last fall that 23 of the country's 67 operating nuclear power plants may have to shut down by 1979 if a 'permanent' solution to nuclear waste disposal is not found. The President's Council on Environmental Quality has called for governmental action that would effectively ban construction of new nuclear power plants until the waste disposal problem is solved. The Natural Resources Defense Council and other environmental groups have gone to court seeking a moratorium on nuclear power expansion until wastes can be safely contained."

And again I quote from a GAO report to the Congress. This one was in September of 1977 and said, in part, "When it publicly announced its waste repository program objectives and goals, ERDA may have promised more than it can deliver. There are, we believe, formidable social, geological and regulatory problems which must be solved.ERDA should take the necessary time in developing the earth science data required to demonstrate acceptably low risks--the key point in gaining public and political acceptance." The U. S. G. S. pointed out in their May 1 report "significant potential stumbling blocks that need critical attention." This report called for more research "on the behavior of salt, focusing on its characteristic high solubility," and "urged that a study be made of the flow of ground water around potential repositories, and recommended more research on the 'short and long term effects of the repository structure and the waste on the environment around the repository,'" (The Texas Observer of June 9, 1978) [ERDA is now Dept. of Energy]

But this will cost so much money and the public will pay for it through taxes or utility bills or both.

In April 1978 the U. S. House committee on government operations made a report on the costs of nuclear power as compared to other forms of energy; it is the most costly of them all. Besides this consideration as utility payments, the cost to the federal government for the massive program necessary to handle existing and anticipated wastes is from \$1 billion to \$2 billion per year for the next 20 years, according to Luther J Carter in the Feb 1977 issue of Science magazine. Then, too, the studies being done regarding possible storage sites for nuclear wastes are costing millions of dollars ~~and~~ each year; the U. T. Bureau of Economic Geology is studying a 28 county area in the Texas Panhandle's Palo Duro ~~GA~~ and Balhart basins and 30 or so counties in Deep East Texas for possible sites; the bureau researchers contend that it will take five years to do the massive engineering and scientific studies needed for presentation to the NRC. Since we have only enough uranium for 30 or so years and a power plant ~~only~~ produces only 30 years, and solar wind, geothermal and other sources of energy are more cost effective and not life and universe threatening, the burden of proof is on the Nuclear Power Industry to convince we Texans that nuclear power will be anything but bad for the people, the state and the nation.

This is my contention. I have more, but have run out of time, paper and patience.

Sincerely,