ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of:)	Docket Nos.
In the hacter or.)	50-443-OL-1-R
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF)	50-444-OL-1-R
NEW HAMSHIRE, et al.)	(Onsite emergency planning
)	and safety issues)
(SEABROOK STATION, UNITS 1 and 2))	ASLB No. 88-558-01-OLR

Pages: 1138 through 1158

Place: Bethesda, Maryland

Date: February 23, 1988

18-01-11

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1	UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION		
2	ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD		
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4	In the Matter of:) Docket Nos.) 50-443-OL-1-R	
5	PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF) 50-444-OL-1-R	
6	NEW HAMPSHIRE, et al.) (Onsite emergency planning) and safety issues)	
7	(SEABROOK STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2)) ASLB No. 88-558-01-OLR	
8	Tuesday February 23, 1988		
9		n 424	
		t-west Towers	
10		D East-west Highway nesda, Maryland	
	beci	lesua, maryranu	
11	The above-entitled matter came on for hearing,		
12	pursuant to notice, at 2:06 p.m.		
13			
10	BEFORE: JUDGE SHELDON 3	J. WOLFE, CHAIRMAN	
14	JUDGE JERRY HAI		
		and Licensing Board	
15			
	Washington, D.G	. 20555	
16	APPEARANCES:		
17	For the Applicants:		
18	THOMAS G. DIGNAN, JR. ,	ESO.	
	Ropes & Gray		
19	225 Franklin Street	2110	
20	Boston, Massachusetts 0	2110	
21	For the Intervenor NECN	P:	
	ANDREA FERSTER, ESQ.		
22	Harmon & Weiss		
	2001 S Street NW		
23	Washington, D.C. 20009		
24	For the NRC Staff:		
25	GREGORY BERRY, ESQ., Of	fice of General Counsel, NRC	
	11555 Rockville Pike, 1	5th Floor	

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PROCEEDINGS

JUDGE WOLFE: I'm using the loudspeaker in my office.

Judge Harbour is here also. I would advise that we have the reporter here, who's transcribing this conference, and it would be most helpful to the reporter and to the Board if, when you speak, just before you speak if you would identify yourselves as to -- so that we'll know who is speaking.

I would indicate also, as a preliminary matter, that we've just received today a notice of special appearance by Westinghouse, and that Westinghouse has moved for an extension of time. Have you received those documents, Mr. Dignan?

MR. DIGNAN: I have received them, Your Honor. I don't have them right here. I 've got them in reproduction, but I have received them.

JUDGE WOLFE: Yes.

Ms. Ferster, you've seen those?

MS. FERSTER: I've not seen them yet.

JUDGE WOLFE: Mr. Berry?

MR. BERRY: No, Your Honor, I have not seen those.

I'm not aware of this notice of special appearance by

Westinghouse.

JUDGE WOLFE: Yes. That's with respect to NECNP Contention I.V. in that special appearance.

However, the reason I'm calling is that we've issued, as you know, the memorandum and order LPB-88-6, dated

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February 17, 1988, and in light of that and pursuant to our order of December 2, 1987, which was unpublished, the Board is phoning you to find out whether you are filing motions for summary disposition with respect to NECNP Contentions IV and I.V., and/or whether, if you're not, what your sense is as to when a hearing should be scheduled.

Mr. Dignan, why don't you pick up on that?

MR. DIGNAN: It is my plan to file a summary disposition motion on both issues, Your Honor.

JUDGE WOLFE: All right.

Ms. Ferster?

MS. FERSTER: Your Honor, NECNP has not yet decided whether it is going to file summary disposition, since some discovery is still outstanding. We can't evaluate that until we've received responses.

We also plan to be filing a motion for reconsideration with regard to the Board's latest decision on the scope of Contention IV, and whether the issue of microbial fouling is within the scope of that contention; and will be filing that on March 3rd.

JUDGE WOLFE: I see. Mr. --

MR. BERRY: This is Gregory Berry.

JUDGE WOLFE: Yes.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Berry from the Staff.

JUDGE WOLFE: Right.

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MR. BERRY: The Staff hasn't made a determination at this time as to whether it will file a motion for summary disposition on either of the contentions. And of course, we can state at this time that if either of the other parties file such a motion, that the Staff will respond to those. But at this time, no final determination has been made as to whether the Staff will file its own independent motion for a summary disposition on either of the contentions.

JUDGE WOLFE: Ms. Ferster, you say you're filing a motion for reconsideration on March 3rd; is that correct?

MS. FERSTER: That's correct, and as we count it,
we're going to have 10 days to -- and five days for mailing -from the date of your order on the scope of the Contention IV.

And that date is March 3rd, so we will be filing on that date a
motion for reconsideration on the scope of that contention.

And we hope to, at that point, have supporting documents that demonstrate that microbial fouling was intended to be within the scope of that contention in 1982.

JUDGE WOLFE: Well, I can't -- the Board can't pass on something that hasn't been filed as yet, but I guess that will delay, at least for now, our determination on when the parties should file motions for summary disposition with respect to these two NECNP contentions, IV and I.V.

That's the way it appears, and we'll just have to await further submissions, among which will be NECNP's motion

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for reconsideration.

Are there any other comments or statements that any one of the parties wishes to make at this time?

MR. DIGNAN: Well, Your Honor, I don't understand.

I'll be perfectly frank. A motion for summary -- for reconsideration can be filed anytime. There's no automatic 10-day barrier to it; there's no automatic right to have 10 days to file it; there's nothing in the rules on it at all.

I don't -- I would respectfully suggest that the filing of -- if filing motions be -- announced intent to file a motion for reconsideration holds things up, it can do it forever, because it can be filed anytime. And I think NECNP should be directed to get it in there posthaste if it's the Board's view that they want to deal with it before setting a schedule. I don't see any need to wait till March 3rd.

JUDGE WOLFE: Yes. Today is Tuesday, February 23.
And, yes --

MS. FERSTER: Your Honor, this is counsel for NECNP; may I speak?

JUDGE WOLFE: Ms. Ferster, yes.

MS. FERSTER: We had decided that 10 days was the appropriate time, since that is the time limit for filing responses to motions, and with the five days for mo ling time added onto that. And that seems to be an abbreviated time period already, and it would be very difficult to obtain the

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supporting documents needed to -- for that motion for reconsideration that were indicated in your order. Prior to that, our expert is not located in the same area, and there is, of course, mailing time and lag time. And we think that 10 days plus the five-day mailing time would be -- is an appropriate time period, and that a shorter period would hamper our ability to effectively make that motion.

JUDGE WOLFE: Well, I seem to have a recollection,

Ms. Ferster, that you did bring up in the pleading, or the
submission, filed after your most recent one with respect to -let's see, let me get it here.

Well, you did indicate -- I don't have the document before me right now -- but you did indicate, Ms. Ferster, that you were contemplating such a motion for reconsideration,

I believe, or filing an amended contention, at least. I've forgotten which document that was now. Do you recall that,

Ms. Ferster?

MS. FERSTER: I believe that was in our motion to compel discovery, and we did indicate that that filing was stated as a reason why we should be given leave to reply. It was in our motion for leave to reply to the Applicants' response to our motion to compel, and it was given as a possible action that we might take, which was why we needed an opportunity to reply to that. And that is still an option.

We feel, however, that that's an option of last

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resort only because we still believe that the issue of
microbial fouling is encompassed within the scope of our
contention as originally worded, and that what is lacking is
the type of proof from experts and documents that are dated as
of the date the contention was admitted that would demonstrate
that this is in fact so.

JUDGE WOLFE: All right. Anything more?

MR. DIGNAN: Yes, there's another matter that I
think -
JUDGE WOLFE: Is this Mr. Dignan?

MR. DIGNAN: -- I'd like to get on the record on,

Your Honor --

JUDGE WOLFE: This is Mr. --

MR. DIGNAN: This is Tom Dignan.

JUDGE WOLFE: Yes, okay.

MR. DIGNAN: And that is this. I assume that, while I understand you're not scheduling summary disposition now, is that an indication of discovery outstanding, and I just wish to advise the parties and the Board that one piece of the discovery which we will be responding to seems to be mostly directed at MIC, which I understand the Board to have ruled out of the contention.

The other possible matter is the Westinghouse matter, and I would remind everybody that both us and Westinghouse had indicated that they are perfectly willing to give the document

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up right now under an appropriate protective agreement.

NECNP has refused this course of action. They're free to litigate with Westinghouse for the next 10 years as far as I'm concerned on whether that remains permanent or not, and it will be my position if a response comes in that discovery still has to be token on the SGTR issue that NECNP has waived that argument insofar as that document is concerned by refusing to take it under a protective agreement.

JUDGE WOLFE: Well, Ms. Ferster, isn't there a possibility you can get together with, certainly, with Westinghouse and square this away so that we can proceed with the disposition on the steam generator tube rupture contention?

MS. FERSTER: Your Honor, we would be happy to -JUDGE WOLFE: What's the hangup?

MS. FERSTER: -- concern with Westinghouse or the Applicant on resolving this issue, but as yet I -- well, first of all. I will tell you that the attorney for NECNP who's handling that is just not available at this time to speak to that, but it's my understanding that this -- that the offer for a protective order occurred in a response to our interrogatories without making any showing as to entitlement for it. Therefore, it's very difficult to evaluate whether we can come to an agreement at this point without -- and certainly without seeing Westinghouse's response, or without seeing Applicants' reasons for claiming entitlement to a

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whether we claim it, I respectfully suggest. What I am saying is the offer has been outstanding, and Westinghouse has repeated it, and I have authority to make it on their behalf from their own counsel. We're perfectly willing to give you the document tomorrow if you'll take it under a protective agreement, which you can then argue to the Board should be lifted or nullified or anything else.

NECNP is that they won't take it on that basis, they want to take it free and clear or not take it at all. And I'm just saying if that be their position, I'm going to be arguing that they can't be heard to say that they should dodge a summary disposition motion on a basis that there's outstanding discovery, at least with respect to that particular document, because they're free to have a look at it tomorrow if they want it, but only if they'll sign the standard Westinghouse protective agreement, which Westinghouse has authorized me to give them.

JUDGE WOLFE: Yes. Well, all that I can add to all this is that the Board is very concerned that this portion of the Seabrook case with respect to the onsite issues, is concerned that this case is getting caught in a morass.

We're just simply not moving.

I've been a litigator for many years myself, and I

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just don't understand this, the constant motions, the constant blizzard of pleadings, and the delay in trying these is es or summarily disposing of them. And I would advise all parties that when I find, when the Board finds, that there has been unwarranted delay in the processing and in this proceeding, the Board will take whatever action is available to it. And we want to move this case along, period.

And I would suggest that all parties attend to what I'm saying here. I can't at this point -- well, hold on, I

(The Board confer.)

JUDGE WOLFE: All right, Ms. Ferster?

MS. FERSTER: Yes, Your Honor.

JUDGE WOLFE: You have before you the Board's

want to talk to Judge Harbour. I'll put this on mute and I'll

memorandum and order of February 17?

MS. FERSTER: Yes, I do.

JUDGE WOLFE: When did you receive that, please?

MS. FERSTER: Let's see, I received that on February

18th.

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be right back.

JUDGE WOLFE: February 18th. Well, I think it's

22 | fair --

MS. FERSTER: No, excuse me, Your Honor, I received it on the 19th. It indicates it was served on the 18th, but we received in our office on the 19th.

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JUDGE WOLFE: Well, I think, in all fairness, so that we can get this case moving, as I indicated before, we will accept your motion for reconsideration only if it's filed on or before March 1, and that should be, Ms. Curran (sic), hand-delivered to the Board by the cloase of business on March 1, and you should express-mail it to Mr. Dignan in Boston.

And how you like yours to be delivered, Mr. Berry?

MR. BERRY: We would prefer it by messenger, Your

l'onor.

JUDGE WOLFE: By messenger. So with respect to both the Board and the Staff, the submission on March I shall be hand-delivered to the Board and to Staff counsel, and you will express-mail it to Mr. Dignan.

All right. Anything more?

MS. FERSTER: Your Honor, this is Andrea Ferster speaking.

When this, the issue of the scope of Contention IV is resolved on whether microbial fouling is within that contention, I would note that there's one outstanding issue, and that is the fact that we do have outstanding discovery that we're not -- we have not yet received responses for.

And some of the discovery is due from the Staff on March 2nd; the rest is due not until mid-March, and that relates to the issue of biofouling, and it requests information that is directly related to macrofouling, which is acknowledged to be

within the scope of our contention.

So I would like to confer again at some point before some scheduling, schedule for summary disposition is established after this, after the March -- after the motions for reconsideration are taken in to determine whether discovery is in fact completed on those issues.

MR. BERRY: Your Honor, this is Mr. Berry.

JUDGE WOLFE: Yes.

MR. BERRY: I believe that I need to make a brief response to Ms. Ferster's last remarks.

The Staff is -- it is correct that there is -- NECNP is owed some outstanding discovery from the Staff on its two contentions. I believe the Staff filed its response to NECNP's second set of interrogatories directed against the Staff. I don't have them in front of me, but I believe it was before February the 12th. And the reason I think it's before that date is it was filed before I was away on leave, and that was around February 12th

We did respond to NECNP's second set of interrogatories Nos., I believe, 31 to 46. They were the ones dealing with the biofouling issue. We'd indicated that we would respond to the remaining interrogatories by March the 2nd, and we certainly expect to do that, if not before.

With respect to Ms. Ferster's remark, I understood it to be suggesting that in responding to NECNP's

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interrogatories that raised the microbiologically-induced corrosion issue, that the Staff acquiesced in some suggestion that that issue's within the scope of the contention. I must respectfully take issue with that. The Staff responded to those interrogatories, but, you know, that should not be taken as any concession on the Staff's part that those are within -- covered within the scope of the admitted contention, and the Staff responded to it on that basis.

To the extent there is that suggestion, well, then I would respectfully request the Staff be given an opportunity to argue the contrary, although I don't believe that's necessary in light of Your Honor's recent memoranda order ruling that the MIC issue is not within the scope of the admitted contention. But the Staff did respond to that, to the micro -- to that part of NECNP's interrogatories, and the only outstanding discovery against the Staff relates to the steam generator tube issue, which we will be responding to shortly.

And so, and the Staff would suggest that that is no basis for deferring any decision on this request for reconsideration of the Board's ruling on the MIC issue. You know, there is no further discovery coming from the Staff that NECNP needs to possess in order to respond to the Board's -- you know, this motion for which they seek reconsideration.

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JUDGE HARBOUR: This is Judge Harbour.

Ms. Ferster, what was the mid-March discovery you

said was outstanding?

MS. FERSTER: Your Honor, we have sent out a set of

interrogatories to the Applicant that ask for information dealing both with microbial fouling, which was -- which the

Board has said is not within the scope of the contention; and

also ask for information with regard to macrobial fouling, or

bivalve fouling, which is clearly within the scope of the

contention.

And my only comment was that I would like to confer again on scheduling of summary disposition, since at this time there is this discovery that is outstanding to the Applicants, as well as the steam generator tube discovery with respect to the Staff.

JUDGE WOLFE: What if we deny your motion for reconsideration, Ms. Ferster?

MS. FERSTER: Well, if you deny our motion for reconsideration, there still is outstanding discovery on the issue of biolfouling by mussels and clams, which is within the scope of that contention, and we would like to have that in hand before we start dealing with summary disposition issues.

JUDGE HARBOUR: Mr. Dignan, would you respond to that, please?

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Mr. Dignan?

MR. DIGNAN: Hello?

JUDGE HARBOUR: Mr. Dignan, did you hear

Ms. Ferster's --

MR. DIGNAN: Yes, I did.

JUDGE HARBOUR: Could you respond to the -- her statement that there is additional macrofouling discovery against the Applicants?

MR. DIGNAN: Yes, Your Honor. I'd like to respond in two veins.

One is there is a set of interrogatories that was sent out February 19th. I will accept the representation that I should read certain of those questions as going to macro. I thought it was all micro, but I'll look at it, in any event.

But more importantly, I wanted to respectfully inquire of the Board as to whether that discovery is in order at all. What the Board did was it originally had an order out directing the completion of discovery by December 28. When the Board decided that would be inequitable, another order was put out — and I would point out you quoted all of this in the recent decision — directing the completion of discovery by February 19th.

Now, is it a proper interpretation of that that somebody waits till the 19th and fires out a set of interrogatories, or was the directive to complete discovery

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by that time, that is, to have gotten them out 14 days before then so that the answers would be due and in by the 19th?

JUDGE WOLFE: Yes. Well, I don't --

MR. DIGNAN: Completion of discovery, I am just saying, in the ordinary language to me always means discovery's over, not that that's the date at which you fire your last cannon so that you extend the period in which the case must remain --

JUDGE WOLFE: Yes. Well, our December 2nd, 1987, order was explicit that discovery should proceed apace and be completed by February 19th.

MR. DIGNAN: That was my understanding also.

MS. FERSTER: Your Honor, may I respond to that?

JUDGE WOLFE: Yes.

MS. FERSTER: This is Andrea Ferster. We understood the discovery order to mean that when you said discovery be completed by February 19th, that it would mean that we had submitted all our requests for interrogatories or documents or information by then. Obviously, if that were so, that if, since the Applicants have 20 days or 10 days -- 20 days to respond to discovery under the rules, then by that reasoning of your -- the Board's order, we could not have sent out any interrogatories after the end of January, which can't be the case.

In any case, Your Honor, I would like, if the

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Applicant does not believe that these interrogatories we sent out are appropriate, I think that we should have an opportunity to brief that issue, if they choose to file some sort of motion or if they fail to respond to that, those interrogatories, or some kind of request for interpretation, then we can brief that issue, because it was certainly our understanding that we could file any interrogatories up until the date when you indicated that discovery was to be completed.

JUDGE WOLFE: Have you filed any response, Mr. Dignan?

MR. DIGNAN: No, these are just arrived here, Your Honor.

JUDGE WOLFE: I see. Well, as I say, we're going to start matters at this end by making certain that we're not inundated with a lot of motions, a lot of pleadings, a lot of extensions of time, and so forth. And we're going to insist that we proceed in a timely manner.

We've just been presented now with some matters that we can't fully appreciate because we haven't seen the documentation and so forth. But I do think that we may or may not hold another conference after the iling of your motion for reconsideration, Ms. Ferster. We may or may not hold a conference to decide at what time motions, or a motion, for summary disposition shall be filed. We're going to take it into our own hands to make that determination. We're just

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tired of the blizzard of papers in this case, and I think it's unwarranted. And we're just going to have to make decisions in order to expedite this case.

But I'm not saying yea or nay at this point on whether or not we will hold another conference. We'll just have to make that determination after we see what the present submissions, current submissions, will be.

Is there something else?

JUDGE HARBOUR: Mute it a minute.

JUDGE WOLFE: Going on mute. Hold on for a moment.

(The Board confer.)

JUDGE WOLFE: Judge Harbour and I have been discussing something off the record. His statements to me were well taken, that in order to expedite this case, if and when pleadings are submitted and there are responses, motions to compel and responses, whatever, we may take it into hand just holding conference calls and giving you our oral rulings, and that way we'll -- that will serve to accelerate these proceedings.

Anything else?

MR. BERRY: Nothing for the Staff, Your Honor.

MR. DIGNAN: Your Honor?

JUDGE WOLFE: Yes.

MR. DIGNAN: I don't wish to --

JUDGE WOLFE: This is Mr. Dignan.

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MR. DIGNAN: -- Dignan. But with respect to the point I was making as to whether discovery should be completed or not, I would point out to the Board that a review of the discovery package that came in, that is to say, the set of interrogatories and a motion for request of entry upon land for inspection and other purposes, with the exception of a few of the beginning interrogatories, which were followed questions on answers we have given, a large number of the interrogatories and the entire request for inspection is something that could have been asked an awfully long time ago. They've basic questions like what's the metallurgy of various systems.

And I respectfully suggest that, if not in violation of the letter -- and I think it is in violation of the letter -- but certainly of the spirit of the order that came down, this effort to throw these kind of basic questions out on February 19th should not be countenanced.

JUDGE WOLFE: Yes. Well, Mr. Dignan, you have the Board at a disadvantage. Did you object in writing?

MR. DIGNAN: I haven't, Your Honor, I haven't responded to the interrogatories because they came in on my desk yesterday.

JUDGE WOLFE: I see. Well --

MR. DIGNAN: I will --

JUDGE WOLFE: Put it in writing, submit it to us,

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1	then we'll have something before us on which to rule. You may
2	or may not be your objections may or may not be well taken.
3	I just don't have these papers before me.
4	MR. DIGNAN: All right. I will include in whatever
5	response we make such objections as I think are in order,
6	including the procedural one, Your Honor.
7	JUDGE WOLFE: All right, fine.
8	All right, thank you very much.
9	MR. DIGNAN: Thank you.
10	MS. FERSTER: Thank you, Your Honor.
11	MR. BERRY: Thank you, Your Honor.
12	JUDGE WOLFE: All right.
13	MR. DICAN: Your Honor?
14	JUDGE WOLFE: Yes.
15	MR. DIGNAN: Is the reporter going to be sending out
16	the transcript of this conference call in conformity with the
17	orders that are on file, or does any special arrangement have
18	to be made with the reporter?
19	JUDGE WOLFE: I'll leave that to the reporter. How
20	about that?
21	THE REPORTER: If there are arrangements on file
22	JUDGE WOLFE: Do you need a microphone?
23	Identify yourself.
24	THE REPORTER: This is Kent Andrews with Heritage
25	Reporting. If there are arrangements on file, then our

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office should send out the transcripts as arranged. MR. DIGNAN: Okay. Ropes & Gray has a standing order of four copies, I believe it is, on file, and if that turns out not to be the case, I'd like to be advised. THE REPORTER: Fine. JUDGE WOLFE: Fine. MR. DIGNAN: Thank you. JUDGE WOLFE: All right, ladies and gentlemen, thank you. MS. FERSTER: Thank you. JUDGE WOLFE: All right. (Whereupon, at 2:41 p.m., the hearing in the above-entitled matter was concluded.)

1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the
4	United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the matter of:
5	Name: Public Service Company of New Hampshire, et al. (Seabrook Station, Units 1 and 2)
6	(Beablook Beaclon, onless I and 2)
7	Docket Number: 50-443/444-OL-1-R (ASLB No. 88-558-01-OLR)
8	Place: Bethesda, Maryland
9	Date: February 23, 1988
10	were held as herein appears, and that this is the original
11	transcript thereof for the file of the United States Nuclear
12	Regulatory Commission taken stenographically by me and,
13	thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction
14	of the court reporting company, and that the transcript is a
15	true and accurate record of the foregoing proceedings.
16	151 heutmarcu
17	(Signature typed): Kent Andrews
18	Official Reporter
19	Heritage Reporting Corporation
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