07/19/88

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA '88 JUL 20 P6:20 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, et al. Docket Nos. 50-443 OL-01 50-444 OL-01 On-site Emergency Planning and Safety Issues

(Seabrook Station, Units 1 and 2

NRC STAFF RESPONSE TO NECNP'S MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION OR RECONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD'S ORDER OF JUNE 23, 1988

INTRODUCTION

On July 13, 1988, the New England Coalition On Nuclear Pollution (NECNP) filed a "Motion For Reconsideration Or Clarification Of The Board's Order Of June 23, 1988" (hereinafter "NECNP Motion"). For the reasons set forth below, the motion should be denied.

DISCUSSION

In its motion NECNP requests the Board to clarify or reconsider the following ruling made by the Roard during a June 23, 1988 telephone conference:

[W]e will neither allow nor give consideration to any arguments or to any efforts to contend that RG-59 cable is not environmentally qualified.

Tr. at 1179. NECNP expressly eschews any effort to challenge the "[environmental] qualification of RG-59 coaxial cable in its original application" but claims that "the cable's qualification for its replacement applications is a central issue in this case." NECNP Motion at 6. Thus, in NECNP's view, it is recessary for the Board to reconsider

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or clarify its ruling to permit an inquiry into "the question of whether the RG-59 cable is qualified for purposes of meeting the performance specifications for the twelve applications in which Applicants intend to substitute RG-59 coaxial cable for RG-58 coaxial cable." Id. at 6.

The Staff opposes NECNP's request for reconsideration to the extent it seeks to inject into this remand proceeding the question whether RG-59 coaxial cable satisfies the environmental qualification requirements set forth in 10 C.F.R. § 50.49(e). As the Board noted (see Tr. 1180), inquiry into that question was emphatically foreclosed by the Appeal Board's decision in ALAB-886. $\frac{1}{2}$

NECNP's motion for clarification similarly should be denied. In its June 23 order, the Board stated that Applicants "must prove that the RG-59 cable is a technically acceptable substitute for the RG-58 coaxial cable." Tr. at 1178-79. The Board's statement leaves little room for doubt that the only "qualification" issue to be litigated is whether RG-59 coaxial cable is an acceptable replacement for RG-58 coaxial cable from a functional requirement, as opposed to an environmental, standpoint. See Tr. at 1178-79. There is no need for the Board to issue a supplemental order reiterating this point. Accordingly, NECNP's motion for clarification or reconsideration of the Board's June 23, 1988 order barring litigation of the environmental qualification of RG-59 coaxial cable should be denied.

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^{1/} In Public Service Company of New ampshire (Seabrook Station, Units 1 and 2), ALAB-886, 27 NRC 1 (1988), the Appeal Board denied MicNP's motion to reopen the record and admit a late-filed contention challenging the environmental qualification of RG-59 coaxial cable. The Licensing Board observed correctly that the Appeal Board's "ruling is now the law of the case." Tr. at 1180.

For the reasons stated in this response, NECNP's Motion For Clarification Or Reconsideration Of The Board's Order Of June 23, 1988 should be denied.

Respectfully submitted, Mer Gree NRC Staff Counsel

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 19th day of July 1988

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

'88 JUL 20 P6:21

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In the Matter of

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, et al. Docket Nos. 50-443 0L-01 50-444 0L-01 On-site Emergency Planning and Safety Issues

(Seabrook Station, Units 1 and 2

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of "NRC STAFF RESPONSE TO NECNP'S MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION OR RECONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD'S ORDER OF JUNE 23, 1988" in the above-captioned proceeding have been served on the following by deposit in the United States mail, first class, or as indicated by an asterisk, by deposit in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's internal mail system, this 19th day of July 1988.

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Dr. Jerry Harbour* Administrative Judge Atomic Safety and Licensing Board U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

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