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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

'88 OCT -4 P5:11

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

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In the Matter of

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE, et al.

(Seabrook Station, Units 1 and 2)

Docket Nos. 50-443 OL-01 50-444 OL-01 Off-site Emergency Planning and Safety Issues

NRC STAFF RESPONSE TO MOTIONS FOR PROTECTIVE ORDERS FILED BY SEACOAST ANTI-POLLUTION LEAGUE (SAPL), THE TOWNS OF HAVERHILL, MERRIMAC, AMESBURY, WEST NEWBURY, AND NEWBURY, AND THE CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

In response to a discovery request filed by the Applicants on August 31, 1988, ½ numerous motions for protective orders have now been filed by the Seacoast Anti-Pollution League (SAPL), the Towns of Haverhill, Merrimac, Amesbury, West Newbury, and Newbury, and the City of Newburyport. The NRC Staff opposes the Intervenors' Motions and recommends that they be denied.

As a preliminary matter, the Staff notes that it does not usually involve itself in discovery disputes between other parties, in which the Staff is not directly involved. In this instance, however, several factors exist which require the Staff to respond to the Intervenors' Motions. In particular, the Staff considers that the discovery sought by

[&]quot;Applicants' First Set of Interrogatories and First Request for Production of Documents to All Parties and Participating Local Governments Regarding Contentions on the Seabrook Plan for Massachusetts Communities" ("Applicants' Request"), dated August 31, 1988.

the Applicants is of fundamental importance to the overall conduct of this proceeding and that a failure by the Intervenors to file proper responses thereto could preclude or appreciably delay a proper resolution of this proceeding. There is simply no merit to the Intervenors' vague, overly broad and unsupported objections and assertions of privilege. Further, the Staff has sought and intends to seek further discovery from the Intervenors on matters similar to the discovery sought by the Applicance in their initial discovery request; a proper ruling on the instant motions seeking protection from that discovery is important for the proper resolution of any similar motions which the Intervenors may file in response to this and any further discovery.

The Staff has received copies of two motions to compel proper discovery responses, filed by the Applicants against SAPL and three of these municipalities on September 26 and 27, 1988. 2/ In addition, the Staff understands that the remaining three municipalities have agreed to supplement their responses to Applicants' discovery, obviating a need for motions to compel directed against them. Rather than address in detail

^{2/ &}quot;Applicants' Motion to Compel Answers to Interrogatories and Production of Documents by Amesbury, Haverhill, and Merrimac", dated September 26, 1988; "Applicants' Motion to Compel Answers to Interrogatories and Production of Documents by SAPL", dated September 27, 1988.

here all of the deficiencies in the Intervenors' objections to discovery and motions for protective order, the Staff will set forth its views on these matters in its response to Applicants' pending motions to compel.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stephen A. Bergquist Counsel for NRC Staff

Datad at Rockville, Maryland t. 30th day of September, 1988

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, et al.

(Seabrook Station, Units 1 and 2)

Docket Nos. 50+443 OL 50-444 OL Off-site Emergency Planning

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of "NRC STAFF RESPONSE TO MOTIONS FOR PROTECTIVE ORDERS FILED BY SEACOAST ANTI-POLLUTION LEAGUE (SAPL), THE TOWNS OF HAVERHILL, MERRIMAC, AMESBURY, WEST NEWBURY, AND NEWBURY, AND THE CITY OF NEWBURYPORT" 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 30th day or September 1988.

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Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Gustave A. Linenberger, Jr.* Administrative Judge Atomic Safety and Licensing Board U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

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

Atomic Safety and Licensing
Appeal Panel (5)*
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel (1)* U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

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