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U.S.NRC

James L. Kirtley
Consulting Electrical Engineer
71 Greenough Street
Brookline, Massachusetts

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH
May 30, 1988

Secretary of the Commission
Attn: Docketing and Service Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear NRC:

It has come to my attention that you are considering a rule clarification which would make it clear that low power (5%) testing of a nuclear power plant can take place before all aspects of evacuation planning, including warning sirens, are fully in place.

I support this proposed clarification. It is clear that testing a new plant at low power levels will create no public hazard that might require evacuations. Thus there is no need to wait for emergency preparations before doing the low power tests.

There is a deeper issue here. Opponents of the power plant at Seabrook, New Hampshire, have taken advantage of all possible legal and administrative mechanisms to delay operation of that plant. The plant sits idle while the mechanisms of licensing grind on, seemingly interminably. There is no good reason for this delay at all.

You people at the NRC must take some of the blame. You have let yourselves be tied up (seemingly endlessly) by trivia and by irresponsible stunts like public officials refusing to participate in emergency planning. I understand that some towns in the Seabrook evacuation zone are thinking of taking down warning sirens already installed, just to throw another monkey wrench into the works. You must not let yourselves be affected by that sort of action. You must make it clear that only substantive questions will affect your actions.

Sincerely,

James Kirtley

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