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USNRC

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June 1, 1988

OFFICE OF  
DOCKETING & SERVICE  
BRANCH

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

Subject: Seabrook Licensing

Dear Secretary of the Commission:

I am writing to urge the NRC to do several things concerning the Seabrook Nuclear Plant.

First, you are currently entertaining a proposed interpretive rule making which would spell out the requirements for a 5% license. The interpretive rulemaking would not require sirens. Please support this change, and rapidly. Massachusetts communities, at the urging of the Massachusetts Attorney General, have been doing everything possible to block licensing of this plant, including ordering of the removal of sirens. While it is my understanding that the joint owners of Seabrook have an adequate substitute, hearings concerning the substitute could chew up more precious time for something that should not be required for a low power license, and the Massachusetts governmental authorities should not be rewarded for abandoning their responsibilities and acting like naysayers.

Second, a 5% license by itself isn't good enough, as the Shoreham situation should tell you. Please cut through the red tape as rapidly as humanly possible to get this plant licensed. The two objections to this plant are safety and economics. The safety objection is a red herring. Politicians are exploiting and fanning the flames of hysteria for their own, selfish purposes. This plant is the safest nuclear plant ever built. Its double containment, defense in depth and quality construction, not to mention the superb training of personnel ensure that an accident leading to any kind of radiation release is extremely remote. Governor Dukakis should not be rewarded for using this plant for political purposes, cynically using "safety" as his shield. He read, and apparently is using, a study done for him by a Harvard Business School graduate student urging him to do just this for political purposes.

The economics question is also a red herring. Although the sunk cost of this plant, due to your ever-changing requirements and the bureaucratic nightmare this plant has already faced, has escalated, that sunk cost will never be collected, since simple economics dictate a market cap for rates. And the incremental cost is, although

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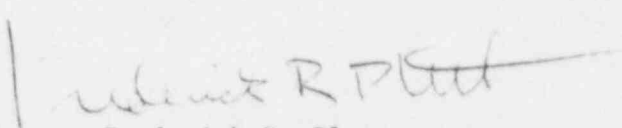
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entirely in your hands, likely to be miniscule compared to any replacement capacity. New England needs capacity today. Please recognize the realities of the situation and move as rapidly as possible to license this plant.

You are currently presiding over the death of nuclear power as a future generating option. This is a terrible shame since nuclear power will be a needed resource with far less environmental impact than any alternative method of electric generation, and using as a fuel uranium, with no other good, peaceful purpose, whereas fossil fuels have much more value in uses other than electricity generation.

Please take a good, hard look at what you have wrought concerning nuclear power in general and simplify the licensing process. This is done with a one-stop process, in which you have spelled out objectives to be attained (not every little detail in how to obtain the objectives) and a review and monitoring by staff to ensure that they believe that the objectives will, in fact, be attained.

Very truly yours,



Frederick R. Plett