



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

FEB 5 1987

50 443

The Honorable Nicholas Mavroules  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mavroules:

I am pleased to respond to your letter of December 17, 1986 to Chairman Zech regarding the request of Massachusetts legislators to have the NRC implement an investigation of the Seabrook nuclear power plant. According to their letter to you, dated November 20, 1986, the concerns of these legislators are based on recently identified problems of faulty plant design and construction at Seabrook. A list of those problems, provided by the Employee's Legal Project of Amesbury, Massachusetts, was included as an attachment to the legislators' letter. Their letter also references the public testimony of Messrs. Douglas Richardson and Raymond Lavoie as an additional source of these recently identified problems.

In July of last year, the NRC Region I Office learned of the establishment of the Employee's Legal Project which was formed to help current and former nuclear power plant employees report safety problems at their work place. The Region I Office has been in frequent communication with the project's director, Ms. Sharon Tracy, since early August 1986. NRC Region I received several pieces of correspondence from the Employee's Legal Project in September and October 1986, which identified a number of safety concerns pertaining to the Seabrook Station.

These safety concerns, as they became available, were given to the NRC resident inspectors for preliminary investigation. They were also provided to Public Service Company of New Hampshire for their action. In the final analysis, some 61 potential safety concerns were formulated from the various documents received from the Employee's Legal Project. These 61 items included issues discussed in the public testimony of Messrs. Richardson and Lavoie as well as the list attached to the legislators' November 20 letter to you. In order to thoroughly investigate these concerns collectively, a special team inspection was conducted by seven NRC Region I inspectors at Seabrook during the period November 3-14, 1986. In addition to their inspection activities at the site, these inspectors also interviewed those former workers who had given their concerns to the Employee's Legal Project and who were willing to talk to the NRC. Those interviewed included Ms. Tracy as well as Messrs. Richardson and Lavoie.

The NRC report of the special team inspection, issued December 19, 1986, is enclosed. The report concludes that the concerns raised by the Employee's Legal Project do not raise any specific new safety issues which adversely impact on safety at Seabrook Station. At the conclusion of our inspection, we again told Ms. Tracy to contact NRC Region I immediately if she received additional concerns on nuclear safety at Seabrook. NRC Region I is prepared to act promptly on any information provided by the Employee's Legal Project or others.

8702130373 870205  
PDR COMMS NRCC  
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

The legislators' letter suggests that the circumstances surrounding recent developments at Seabrook justify that the NRC direct an independent investigation to take place, and makes reference to reactive actions taken at the Midland and Zimmer facilities. When the NRC determines that conditions at a construction facility require closer scrutiny than the normal inspection program provides, the first step is normally to implement a special team inspection to accurately define the scope of the problem. This was done at Midland and Zimmer as well as Seabrook. Based on the results of that inspection, the NRC then determines what additional inspection or investigation is warranted. Significant problems were identified at Midland and Zimmer, and appropriate additional inspection and investigation effort was requested. However, the special team inspection at Seabrook, discussed above, failed to identify problems of a significant nature, and therefore additional actions with respect to Seabrook are not deemed appropriate at this time.

Your letter indicates that you have additional concerns about emergency planning, and the ability of Seabrook to operate safely. In the latter regard, the NRC staff has expended over 21,000 inspection hours at Seabrook in order to assist in making the determination that the plant can be operated safely. This inspection effort is substantially above the average for other new construction facilities in Region I. The findings of this inspection effort reasonably affirm the ability of the plant to operate safely. Accordingly, the NRC has issued Public Service of New Hampshire a license to load fuel and conduct certain preoperational testing.

The issue of State and local emergency planning has not been resolved. As you are aware, significant issues are now before the appropriate Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, and must be resolved before a full power license can be issued. These issues include the formulation and implementation of effective State and local emergency plans which must comply with NRC regulations. I can assure you that a full power license will not be issued until these issues are satisfactorily resolved.

If I or my staff can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
Victor Stello

Victor Stello, Jr.  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure: NRC Region I Inspection Report 50-443/86-52



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RI:DRA

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Collins

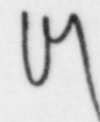
Kane

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2/4/87



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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

**ACTION**

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL  
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FROM:  
REP. NICHOLAS MAVROULES

DUE: 01/15/87  
*22*  
*30*

EDO CONTROL: 002432  
DOC DT: 12/17/86  
FINAL REPLY:

TO:  
CHAIRMAN ZECH

FOR SIGNATURE OF:  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

\*\* GREEN \*\*

SECY NO: 861347

DESC:  
ENCLOSES LTR FROM MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT  
REQUESTING AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF  
SEABROOK PLANT DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

ROUTING:  
DENTON  
TAYLOR  
MURRAY

DATE: 12/30/86  
ASSIGNED TO: RI                      CONTACT: MURLEY

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:





NICHOLAS MAVROULES  
6TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
SMALL BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
GENERAL OVERSIGHT AND  
THE ECONOMY

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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10 WELCOME STREET  
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TOLL FREE WITHIN  
MASSACHUSETTS  
(800) 272-6730

December 17, 1986

Lando W. Zech, Jr., Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Zech:

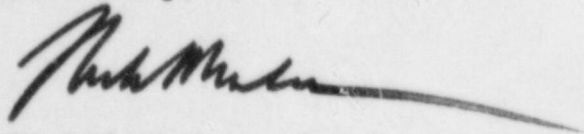
I have been asked by a group of concerned Massachusetts legislators to support their effort in obtaining an independent investigation of New Hampshire's Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. Their appeal is founded upon allegations of faulty plant design and construction, which if proven as fact, would call into question the advisability of operating the plant as a nuclear facility.

At the legislator's behest, and pursuant to their enclosed correspondence, I would ask you to give serious consideration to their request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission order an independent investigation of the facility's design and construction.

I know all parties at interest are in agreement that Seabrook Station should not become operative until every assurance is given that the plant will operate safely and that effective state and local emergency plans are in place.

Thank you for your anticipated co-operation and courtesy.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Mavroules  
Member of Congress

NM/mg  
Enc.

~~8702090065~~ 7DP



SENATOR  
NICHOLAS J. COSTELLO  
SENATE CHAIRMAN

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Joint Committee on Energy*  
*Room 540, State House, Boston 02133*  
*(617) 722-2090*

REPRESENTATIVE  
LAWRENCE R. ALEXANDER  
HOUSE CHAIRMAN

November 20, 1986

Honorable Nicholas Mavroules  
U.S. House of Representatives  
440 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mavroules:

We are writing to ask for your support in obtaining an independent investigation of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant in Seabrook, New Hampshire. We are concerned that there may be violations in the plant's design and construction which call into question whether the plant can operate safely at this time or at any time in the future.

Several weeks ago, two former employees of the Seabrook plant gave public testimony about problems in design and construction which would seriously jeopardize the plant's integrity. Given the nature of these allegations and others which continue to be obtained, a tri-state coalition involving officials of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts has formed. The purpose of this coalition is to call on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to order an independent investigation of the facility's design and construction.

With the testimony of Mr. Douglas Richardson and Mr. Raymond Lavoie, we have the evidence necessary to warrant an investigation. In addition, we have enclosed a list of problems, compiled over recent years, which has never been thoroughly explored but which demands further exploration. We believe that as lawmakers and representatives of our constituencies, it is our responsibility to verify the plant's safety. It is with this endeavor we seek your assistance.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has implemented such investigations in the past. Specifically, investigations of the Zimmer plant in Ohio and the Midland plant in Michigan have led to plant shutdowns. In addition, the NRC is presently considering an investigation of the Comanche Peak plant in Texas. Certainly, the circumstances surrounding the development of the Seabrook plant justify such an investigation. We ask that you enjoin the NRC to commence action in the interest of public health and safety. We anxiously await your response and the results of an NRC investigation.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

Sincerely,

MEMBERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT

Nicholas J. Costello

Gregory E. Bey

Greg D. Bruce

John M. Bruneau

Barbara Hildt

Denis Lawrence

Joseph M. McNamee

Shemuel Quernsey

Pat F. Ryan

Frances F. Alexander

Lawrence P. Alexander

Dell Alden

Richard A. Kraus

Jeff C. Burt

Joseph K. Mackey

Jack & Zachman

Boulton Gray

Tom Gallagher

William E. Howard

Wm. V. Nagle Jr



<u>Royal L. Ballings</u>	<u>Sol R Albert</u>
<u>Marie E. Howe</u>	<u>Robert A. Duane</u>
<u>David S. Magnan</u>	<u>Joseph B. Madigan</u>
<u>Paul J. Thas</u>	<u>Michael J. Keane</u>
<u>Thomas P. Kennedy</u>	<u>Salvatore J. Mas</u>
<u>Susan Schur</u>	<u>J. Michael Quinn</u>
<u>Christopher J. Hodgson</u>	<u>Charles E. Sibria</u>
<u>Eleanor Myerson</u>	<u>Raymond Jordan</u>
<u>Joe A. Berman</u>	<u>Stephen Doran</u>
<u>Frank E. Cannon</u>	<u>Robert J. Caszoli</u>
<u>Joseph DeNucci</u>	<u>Paul C. Salt</u>
<u>Gregory H. Sullivan</u>	<u>Sandra Graham</u>
<u>Chester A. Suboski</u>	<u>Guy Bane</u>
<u>Thomas F. Brownell</u>	
<u>Sue Tucker</u>	
<u>Alfred L. Burt</u>	

MEMBERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL  
COURT ENDORSING THE ENCLOSED SEABROOK  
LETTER:

Senator Nicholas J. Costello (D-Amesbury)  
Senator Gerard D'Amico (D-Worcester)  
Senator Edward L. Burke (D-Framingham)  
Senator Frederick E. Berry (D-Peabody)  
Senator Richard A. Kraus (D-Arlington)  
Senator Salvatore R. Albano (D-Somerville)  
Senator William B. Golden (D-Weymouth)  
Senator Royal L. Bolling, Sr. (D-Boston)  
Senator Jack H. Backman (D-Brookline)  
Senator George Bachrach (D-Watertown)

Representative Lawrence R. Alexander (D-Marblehead)  
Representative Barbara A. Hildt (D-Amesbury)  
Representative Frances F. Alexander (D-Beverly)  
Representative Geoffrey C. Beckwith (D-Reading)  
Representative Thomas F. Brownell (D-Quincy)  
Representative John A. Businger (D-Brookline)  
Representative Paul E. Caron (D-Springfield)  
Representative Robert A. Cerasoli (D-Quincy)  
Representative A. Joseph DeNucci (D-Newton)  
Representative Joseph K. Mackey (D-Somerville)  
Representative Denis Lawrence (D-New Bedford)  
Representative David P. Magnani (D-Framingham)  
Representative John E. McDonough (D-Boston)  
Representative Joseph B. McIntyre (D-New Bedford)  
Representative Joan M. Menard (D-Somerset)  
Representative William E. Moriarty (D-Ware)  
Representative Eleanor Myerson (D-Brookline)  
Representative William P. Nagle, Jr. (D-Northampton)  
Representative Michael J. Rea, Jr. (D-Billerica)  
Representative J. Michael Ruane (D-Salem)  
Representative Salvatore F. DiMasi (D-Boston)  
Representative Stephen W. Doran (D-Lexington)  
Representative Robert A. Durand (D-Marlborough)

Representative Patricia G. Fiero (D-Gloucester)  
Representative Thomas M. Gallagher (D-Boston)  
Representative Sandra Graham (D-Cambridge)  
Representative Barbara E. Gray (R-Framingham)  
Representative Sherwood Guernsey (D-Williamstown)  
Representative Jonathan L. Healy (R-Charlemont)  
Representative Christopher J. Hodgkins (D-Lee)  
Representative Marie E. Howe (D-Somerville)  
Representative Frank M. Hynes (D-Marshfield)  
Representative Raymond A. Jordon (D-Springfield)  
Representative Marie-Louise Kehoe (D-Dedham)  
Representative Thomas P. Kennedy (D-Brockton)  
Representative Charles E. Silvia (D-Fall River)  
Representative Chester A. Suhoski (D-2nd Worcester)  
Representative Gregory W. Sullivan (D-Norwood)  
Representative Susan C. Tucker (D-Andover)  
Representative Theodore C. Speliotis (D-Danvers)  
Representative Susan D. Schur (D-Newton)  
Representative Daniel J. Ranieri (D-Bellingham)

(In the interest of time, some of the above endorsers opted to sign selected letters from among the Massachusetts Congressional delegation. Therefore, your list of signatures may vary slightly from the total list above.)



## Employee's Legal Project

P.O. Box 633

Amesbury, MA 01913

(617) 388-9620

Our concern that an independent investigation of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant be conducted to determine the safety of the plant is supported by former employees who have publicly aired their concerns about problems they observed while working there. Former Seabrook employees have contacted the Employee's Legal Project, a non-profit organization which provides advice and legal counsel to workers at New England's nuclear power plants. Problems cited by these former employees include:

- \*The fire protection system piping is seriously clogged; the system was tested for pressure but not for volume.
- \*Containment cement tested and rejected as an improper mixture was poured anyway.
- \*Backup safety systems run parallel to each other and use the same systems for support. They are not adequately separated.
- \*Prohibited construction practices (cold-pulling) were used.
- \*Superficial patches were applied to cracks in the containment cement.
- \*Empty beer cans and bottles were discarded in wet containment cement, potentially creating air pockets.
- \*Paint in the containment (crucial to the plant's safe operation) is peeling.
- \*Workers with no previous experience were trained on the spot in delicate welding techniques.
- \*Written instructions were used as a primary training tool, although some workers were illiterate and many foreign engineers were not fluent in English.
- \*Electrical cables along the inside of the containment walls give off sparks, igniting small fires.
- \*On the job alcohol and drug abuse was reported to be of epidemic proportions.

This is just a sampling of problems reported by former workers at the plant. We believe these allegations must be investigated. And, because they seem to point to a pattern of unsafe work, the entire design and construction of the plant must be investigated.