

RAS 2905

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March 27, 2001

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Emile Julian, Assistant for Rulemakings and Adjudications
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: Harris License Amendment Proceeding, Docket No. 50-400LA

Dear Mr. Julian:

I am enclosing the original signed signature page for the Declaration of 16 March 2001 by Dr. Gordon Thompson In Support of Orange County's Stay Motion of 16 March 2001. Dr. Thompson's Declaration was filed on March 16, 2001, in support of Orange County's Emergency Request to Stay LBP-01-09. Due to time constraints, I was unable to file the original signature page on March 16.

Sincerely,



Diane Curran

cc w/ encl.: service list

Template = SECY-018

SECY-02

Unfortunately, however, the calculations shed no useful light on the seven-part event sequence, because the ARCON model cannot capture the relevant phenomena. (See paragraph 54, above.)

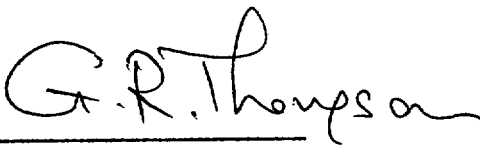
(76) Aside from the calculations mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the Parry affidavit provides the primary documentation of the Staff's analysis. Statements made in the Parry affidavit are predominantly qualitative, and there is frequent, explicit recourse to judgment and belief. A qualitative analysis of this type cannot be independently validated. Therefore, it does not provide an adequate basis for the Staff's refusal to prepare an EIS.

Irreparable Harm Caused by Granting of the Harris License Amendment

(77) A pool fire at Harris would be a national disaster of historic proportions, causing irreparable harm to people and the environment. (See paragraph 43, above.) The parties to the Harris proceeding agree that a fire would occur in all four pools at Harris if water were lost from at least one pool. (See paragraph 38, above.) The probability of a pool fire is in contention, but this declaration shows that Orange County's probability estimate is more credible than the estimates proffered by CP&L and the NRC Staff. The County estimates the probability of a pool fire to be comparable to the probability of a degraded-core reactor accident with containment failure or bypass. Granting of the Harris license amendment would lead to activation of pools C and D and, thereby, to an approximate doubling of the number of spent fuel assemblies stored in the Harris pools. (See paragraph 26, above.) As a result, the consequences of a pool fire at Harris would be significantly increased. This increase in consequences could be avoided if CP&L added dry storage capacity for spent fuel at one or more of its plant sites instead of employing high-density storage of spent fuel in pools C and D at Harris. Accordingly, granting of the Harris license amendment would create imminent, irreparable and unnecessary harm to people and the environment.

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing facts are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that the opinions expressed above are based on my best professional judgment.

Executed on 16 March 2001.



Gordon Thompson