

Center for Development Policy

October 3, 1979

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Mr. James R. Shea
Office of International Programs
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Shea:

Until very recently our staff at the Center had thought that the various disputes between Ebasco and other agencies and experts about the seismic and volcanic safety of the Bataan nuclear site could be understood as honest differences of opinion among experts. We no longer think that this is the case.

In the past several weeks, we have talked at length by telephone with two scientists who were part of the Ebasco team which carried out studies of the Bataan site as the basis for the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report. These conversations convince us that there may have been a calculated attempt by Ebasco to cover up or dismiss evidence of seismic and volcanic risks at the site.

Among the points one or the other of these geologists raised with me are the following:

1. The site was selected in advance for reasons of cost, not safety, and that all studies were directed by Ebasco management to prove the site was safe -- not gather the facts objectively.
2. Written objections to the methods, sampling, testing, mapping and other aspects of the site studied were filed by members of the team with Ebasco managers. Neither knows what became of these appeals for change in procedures, since both quit after 15 or so months work on Bataan.
3. Many other members of the Ebasco team had similar professional and personal objections and reservations to Ebasco's overall or specific analysis. And, that these two are among at least six who have left Ebasco because of the experience on Bataan.

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Other points raised include: incomplete volcanic sampling, inadequate micro-seismic monitoring, lack of study of the "H" line formation or fault, and many other points.

The number of their problems with Ebasco, the pattern of their complaints, and the implication of gaps which may be present in the Ebasco data as a result, raise real question in our minds about the intent of Ebasco in their study of Bataan.

Further, from them and others we have the names and locations of other Ebasco scientists said to have quit the team on Bataan. We are working to interview them as well.

My concern here is that the NRC make its own investigation of these charges or solicit the assistance of the FBI or other relevant government agencies.

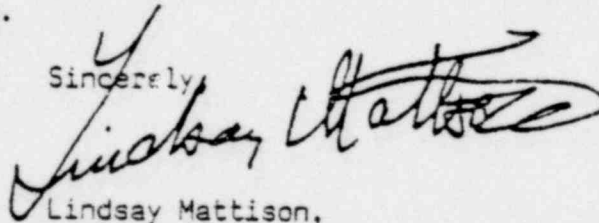
Ebasco has remained almost the sole source of expertise and data for all the agencies -- both here and in the Philippines -- which must decide on the safety of the site. This is true for the NPC, IAEA, PAEC, U. S. State, U. S. Geological Survey, and, finally, NRC.

My strong feeling is the Nuclear Regulatory Commission cannot render a sound judgment on the issues of safety without investigating these charges.

I stand ready to give you the names, addresses and phone numbers of all the geologists and experts whom we think worked for Ebasco on Bataan. Further, we stand ready to help you assess their views, test their assertions and locate others involved.

I await your response.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Mattison,
Director
Center for Development Policy

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Hand Delivered

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