

GORDON J. HUMPHREY
NEW HAMPSHIRE

9836

TICKET NUMBER
PROD. & UTIL. FAC.

50-443/444-02

COMMITTEES
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WORKS

531 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-2841

FAX NUMBER
(202) 224-1363

NEW HAMPSHIRE TOLL FREE NUMBER
1-800-852-3714

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr
Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

According to the schedule which you announced at a public meeting on January 18, soon the full Commission will be making very important decisions regarding Seabrook Station which will affect my state.

As I have repeatedly tried to communicate to the Commission, I am not impressed with your interpretation of the basic concepts of due process and safety. Commission orders which are premised on a standard of "efficiency and effectiveness" (November 16, 1989) are totally inconsistent with the NRC's responsibilities as an agency charged with ensuring "that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered." (10 CFR 50.40)

Nothing in recent weeks has served to change my mind. For instance, a February 8 Boston Globe story regarding a manager recently suspended from Seabrook station because he failed an alcohol test reported the following reaction from an NRC official: "It [the suspension of a Seabrook official] does not give us any concern because of the many levels of review those programs have to go through up there and the independent inspections we have done." [emphasis added] The article goes on to quote you as saying that the suspended official "admitted he had been drinking until midnight the night before," and that he still had alcohol in his system when he went to work the next morning. You are then quoted as saying: "We wouldn't want to impugn a guy's reputation because he had eight hours and couldn't sober up."

It is plainly obvious that this was a serious incident. The utility took it seriously. I take it seriously. Anyone remotely interested with safety procedures at Seabrook should take it seriously. For an official of the NRC to claim that it is of no concern is astonishing. Respectfully, your own remarks hardly suggest an overwhelming preoccupation with safety. It seems to me that if someone reports for work at a facility regulated by the NRC and he is not sober, whatever the circumstances, that should be cause for considerable concern.

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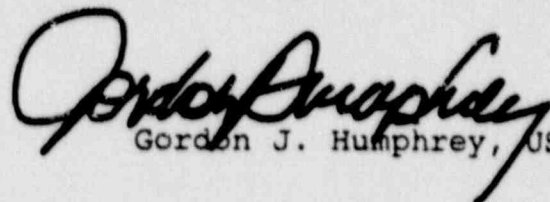
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At the January 18 meeting, the NRC staff recommended that the Commission issue a full power license for Seabrook. Staff are an important resource. However, it is you and the other Commissioners who must make critical safety decisions and who bear ultimate responsibility. It is not enough to rely on staff recommendations.

I urge you not to make any decision without personally reviewing the many safety related allegations which have been raised in recent weeks. I urge you to examine in detail, as I have, the emergency evacuation planning issues. I especially urge you to examine the four contentions on the New Hampshire Radiological Emergency Response Plan which were remanded by the Atomic Safety Licensing Appeal Board to the Atomic Safety Licensing Board. You will recall that just two days after the contentions were remanded, the lower-level Licensing Board ruled that these important safety issues "do not preclude the immediate issuance of an operating license", a procedural coup which has yet to be explained. Of course, shortly thereafter, the Commission vacated the Appeal Board from further involvement in the Seabrook proceedings.

All eyes are on you. The licensing of Seabrook has become the golden ring for the beleaguered industry which the Commission seems so eager to promote. I urge you, however, to remember that your most important charge is ensuring public health and safety. This is the standard against which the Commission's integrity will be judged.

Sincerely,


Gordon J. Humphrey, USS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW
HAMPSHIRE, ET AL.
(Seabrook Station, Units 1 and 2)

Docket No.(s) 50-443/444-DL

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing LTR HUMPHREY TO CARR DTD 2/9 have been served upon the following persons by U.S. mail, first class, except as otherwise noted and in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Sec. 2.712.

Administrative Judge
G. Paul Bollwerk, III
Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal
Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Judge
Howard A. Wilber
Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal
Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Judge
Richard F. Cole
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Robert R. Pierce, Esquire
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Edwin J. Reis, Esq.
Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Judge
Thomas S. Moore, Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal
Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Law Judge
Ivan W. Smith, Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Judge
Kenneth A. McCollom
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Administrative Judge
James H. Carpenter
Alternate Technical Member
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Mitzi A. Young
Attorney
Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Diane Curran, Esq.
Harrison, Curran & Tousley
2001 S Street, N.W., Suite 430
Washington, DC 20009

Thomas B. Dignan, Jr., Esq.
Ropes & Gray
One International Place
Boston, MA 02110

Robert A. Backus, Esq.
Backus, Meyer & Solomon
116 Lowell Street
Manchester, NH 03106

Paul McEachern, Esq.
Shaines & McEachern
25 Maplewood Avenue, P.O. Box 360
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Gary W. Holmes, Esq.
Holmes & Ellis
47 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, NH 03842

Judith H. Mizner
Counsel for Newburyport
79 State Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Suzanne P. Egan
City Solicitor
Lagoulis, Hill-Wilton and Rotondi
79 State Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Jane Doherty
Seacoast Anti-Pollution League
5 Market Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Ashod N. Amirian, Esq.
145 South Main Street, P.O. Box 38
Bradford, MA 01830

George Iverson, Director
N. H. Office of Emergency Management
State House Office Park South
107 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

George W. Watson, Esq.
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

Jack Dolan
Federal Emergency Management Agency
442 J.W. McCormack (POCH)
Boston, MA 02109

George D. Bisbee, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
25 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

Suzanne Breiseth
Board of Selectmen
Town of Hampton Falls
Drinkwater Road
Hampton Falls, NH 03844

Docket No. (s) 90-443/444-DL
LTR HUMPHREY TO CARR DTD 2/9

John Traficante, Esq.
Chief, Nuclear Safety Unit
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, 19th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Peter J. Brann, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
State House Station, #6
Augusta, ME 04333

Allen Lampert
Civil Defense Director
Town of Brentwood
20 Franklin Street
Exeter, NH 03833

William Armstrong
Civil Defense Director
Town of Exeter
10 Front Street
Exeter, NH 03833

Anne Goodman, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
13-15 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824

Michael Santosuoso, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
South Hampton, NH 03827

R. Scott Hill-Whilton, Esquire
Lagoulin, Hill-Whilton & McGuire
79 State Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Stanley W. Knowles, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
P.O. Box 710
North Hampton, NH 03862

Norman C. Katner
Superintendent of Schools
School Administrative Unit No. 21
Alumni Drive
Hampton, NH 03842

Sandra F. Mitchell
Civil Defense Director
Town of Kensington
Box 10, RR1
East Kingston, NH 03827

The Honorable
Gordon J. Humphrey
ATTN: Janet Coit
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dated at Rockville, Md. this
12 day of February 1990

Patty Henderson

Office of the Secretary of the Commission