

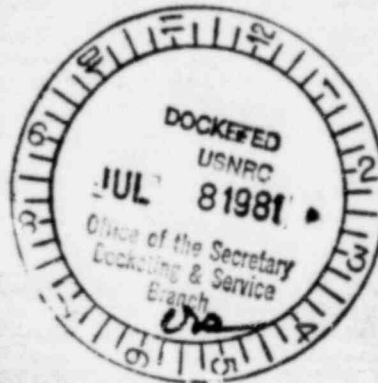
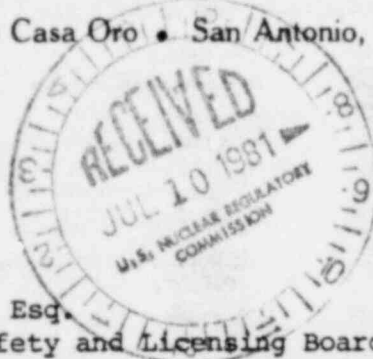
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San Antonio Forum on Energy

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June 29, 1981

Charles Bechhoefer, Esq.
Chairman, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555



Dear Mr. Bechhoefer:

It has been brought to our attention that a request for siting of September hearings for the South Texas Nuclear Project in Austin, Texas, has been twice denied. It is my understanding that reasons given included the fact that Austin airline schedules are not as convenient as those for Houston and the fact that Houston Lighting and Power is located in Houston.

The San Antonio Forum on Energy believes that reasons for denial of the request are insignificant compared to those that prompted the request. These include:

- 1) The fact that CCANP, one of the intervenors, will not be represented if hearings are not held in Austin due to counsel's attendance at law school in Austin.
- 2) The Austin City Council passed, two weeks ago, a unanimous resolution that a formal city request be made to hold the hearings in Austin, largely due to the great interest in the subject on the part of Austin's citizens.
- 3) There has been a disproportionate period set aside for hearings in Houston, which far exceeds Houston's share in the plant. San Antonio and Bay City have had only token weeks for the hearings and Austin has not even had that, apart from a two-day pre-hearing conference, unpublicized, last March.

On the basis of the above we urge you to reconsider your decision not to hold the September hearings in Austin. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, like the Atomic Energy Commission before it, has all along been too closely identified with pro-nuclear interests; your recent decision, if unchanged, can only further that impression and make still difficult the nearly impossible task of citizen intervention.

I thank you for your consideration and await a reply.

Yours sincerely,

R. Betsy Tenenbaum

R. Betsy Tenenbaum, Ph.D.
Acting President
San Antonio Forum on Energy

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