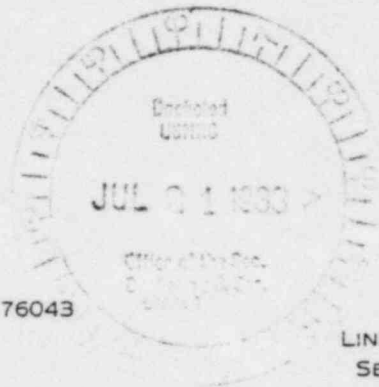




County of Somervell

OFFICE OF COUNTY JUDGE
COUNTY COURTHOUSE, GLEN ROSE, TEXAS 76043
TELEPHONE: 817-897-2322

GEORGE R. CRUMP
COUNTY JUDGE



LINDA WILSON
SECRETARY

July 12, 1983

Chairman Peter B. Bloch
U.S. Atomic Safety & Licensing Board
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

20-445/446

Dear Sir:

I was both shocked and amazed when I read the news story in the June 28, 1983, issue of the Dallas Times Herald newspaper, which quoted you or members of your Board, during your recent hearings in Fort Worth.

In part the article stated "... it was unlikely that they will later decide that inadequacies in the Emergency Plans are a 'serious' safety issue, since the area within ten miles of the plant is sparsely populated." If this is an accurate reflection of the attitude of the Board members then you must feel that our "sparse population" is expendable should a major accident occur at the nuclear power plant. This attitude is totally unacceptable to us as it would be to the vast majority of American citizens.

The population numbers contained within the ten mile zone around a nuclear facility should not be a deciding factor in deciding if an Emergency Plan, or any safety question, is adequate or not. As long as our citizens may be placed in jeopardy, then every facet of the safety program is serious and major.

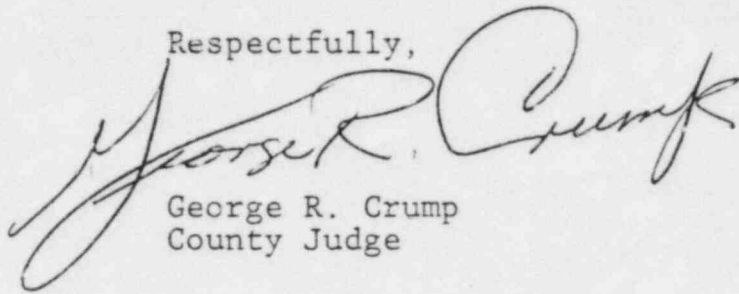
One of the vital elements contained in the Emergency Plan is that all people within the ten mile zone will be adequately notified of an incident occurring at the power plant. This is to be accomplished immediately by the activation of a Siren System. Following the sirens will come audio and television announcements. You have not inquired to this office for any information concerning the adequacy of the siren system in our county. I must say that it does not perform to any acceptable degree.

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I plan to attend your future hearings so I may witness the actions of your board. I would hope to find the attitude of your board members to be simular to mine.

I entend to use my authorities and responsibilities in every way to insure that every citizen in our "sparcely populated" county are afforded every safety factor possible.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George R. Crump". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

George R. Crump
County Judge

GRC:lw

Panel rejects nuclear plant disaster plan hearings

By JACK BOOTH
Staff Writer

A federal licensing panel Monday rejected Attorney General Jim Mattox's request for more hearings on evacuation plans for the area surrounding the Comanche Peak nuclear plant.

The panel left itself the option of conducting more hearings later this year.

The U. S. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board panel said the state's June 13 request failed to justify more testimony on the Hood County and Somervell County emergency plans.

However, the three-member board noted that it was not satisfied with the

Federal Emergency Management Agency's evaluation of the county plans. The board said it may order more testimony later if a final agency report, which will be prepared after an Oct. 5 drill, is not satisfactory.

During licensing hearings in May in Fort Worth, board Chairman Peter B. Bloch and another board member, Walter Jordan, said the county plans were vague and put too much responsibility in the hands of untrained county judges.

They added that the county and state plans rely on the utility for an assessment of the seriousness of a plant accident. That reliance, they said, could produce a situation similar to the 1979 Three

Mile Island accident near Harrisburg, Pa., in which conflicting reports caused widespread panic.

In their order Monday, board members said it was unlikely that they will later decide that inadequacies in the emergency plans are a "serious" safety issue, since the area within 10 miles of the plant is sparsely populated. They said questions about the plans could delay their decision.

Comanche Peak, under construction 80 miles southwest of Dallas, cannot receive a license to operate at full power until the state and county emergency plans are approved by the licensing board, which

has said it is months away from a decision.

Plant officials say they will be ready for low-power testing in September, but the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has said testing is unlikely to occur before December.

David J. Preister, an assistant attorney general, said he will have to review Monday's board decision before deciding whether to make further attempts to reopen testimony on the emergency plans.

Preister, who believes the county plans do not meet federal standards, said a June 15 test of the emergency sirens illustrated the state's concerns.

Ten of the 40 sirens failed to sound because an operator at the Hood County Sheriff's Department made a typing mistake while entering the siren code into a computer system, according to plant officials.

A number of county officials and residents complained after the test that they had not heard the sirens, which are supposed to alert people to listen to radios for instructions on whether to evacuate.

"This was a test where there was no pressure, and it failed," Preister said. "What would happen in a real test when everybody's a little more excited about everything?"