

425

DOCKET NUMBER 50-2895P  
PROD. & UTIL. FAC.

**GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT**

1555 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 202  
Washington, D.C. 20036

DOCKETED  
(202) 232-8550

\*85 FEB -6 A10:08

February 4, 1985

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
DOCKETING & SERVICE  
BRANCH

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

Sheldon J. Wolfe  
Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gustave A. Linenberger, Jr.  
Administrative Judge  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Administrative Judges:

I am writing to inform the Licensing Board of what I perceive as a serious misrepresentation by Licensee in proposed findings on the Dieckamp Mailgram issue, filed on January 28, 1985, pertaining to, in part, negotiations between licensee attorney Mr. Blake and myself. Since these proposed findings are part of the public record I think it is important to bring the matter to the Board's and the public's attention at this time.

On page 92, footnote 21, of licensee's findings the following is stated:

The lack of finding on the Dieckamp mailgram is curious in that the very issue of the Dieckamp mailgram has been perpetuated at the considerable urging of Congressman Udall and Dr. Henry Myers (the Committee's Science Advisor). Congressional interest in this matter has been evident both to the Special Inquiry Group and to the NRC's I&E. Tr. 30,661-30,662, 30,703 (Gamble); JME 1(c)(107) at 81. In fact, even in this proceeding TMIA at one point proposed Dr. Myers as a TMIA witness. TMIA subsequently withdrew the proposal in return, inter alia for Licensee's agreement to drop interrogatories inquiring into information and support provided to TMIA by Dr. Myers. See JME 1(a) at 9. Nevertheless, the Board observed that Dr.

8502070329 850204  
PDR ADOCK 05000289  
PDR

DS03

Myers did attend the hearings during the appearances of key witnesses in this proceeding.

First, I would note that the Dieckamp Mailgram issue is currently before this Board as a result of an Appeal Board order remanding the issue. Licensee has not, and cannot, make any showing of how Congressman Morris Udall or Dr. Henry Myers influenced, or is in anyway responsible for, that Appeal Board decision. And, as this Board well knows, the Board itself found the Dieckamp Mailgram important to its resolution of Board Issue 10. The Commission itself has viewed the mailgram as important to a determination of management integrity and competence. See Transcript of October 14, 1981 Nuclear Regulatory Commission meeting. Licensee's representation that Congressman Udall, the NRC oversight committee which he chairs, or the committee staff in some manner improperly promoted the issue as a matter of concern to this Board should not be tolerated by this Board.<sup>1</sup>

Secondly, Licensee suggests that Three Mile Island Alert ("TMIA") made some kind of agreement to drop Dr. Myers as a witness and withdraw his testimony in this proceeding in order to avoid answering interrogatories about information or support Dr. Myers provided to TMIA. As can be seen from the face of the Joint Mailgram Stipulation (or the Modified Joint Mailgram Stipulation) TMIA did not withdraw Dr. Myers' testimony but in fact stipulated to this testimony. At the time Dr. Myers' testimony was stipulated, discovery concerning that testimony became moot and irrelevant to this proceeding.

The Joint Mailgram Stipulation reads, in relevant part, as follows:

The signatory parties agree that acceptance of this stipulation by the Licensing Board will bind the parties at the evidentiary hearing and further obviate TMIA's calling Dr. Henry Myers as a witness in the captioned proceedings. Licensee agrees in the captioned proceedings not to depose Dr. Myers, and not to seek documents from Dr. Myers, TMIA or NRC related to Dr. Myers on the Dieckamp mailgram issue. Licensee further has withdrawn a number of outstanding interrogatories to TMIA . . .

---

<sup>1</sup>Licensee cites David Gamble's testimony as supportive of its characterization. In fact, Mr. Gamble testified merely that Dr. Myers' concern about this issue, and Victor Stello's direction to resolve this concern, were the reasons I&E reviewed the issue in the course of its NUREG-0760 investigation.

TMIA agreed to stipulate to Dr. Myers' proposed testimony because Licensee agreed to stipulate into evidence the report of the Majority Staff of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, "Reporting of Information Concerning the Accident at Three Mile Island (March 1981) ("Udall Report") of which Dr. Myers was the primary author. Further, licensee agreed to stipulate a technical point on the temperatures at which a zircalloy-steam reaction would occur. See Stipulation at 9.

TMIA did not draft and did not pursue this stipulation. To the contrary, TMIA entered into this stipulation largely at the urging of Mr. Blake, who envisioned that he would have problems obtaining discovery of a House Committee staff member whose testimony was been offered in this hearing for the limited purpose of sponsoring the Udall Report.

The background to the stipulation is instructive of how licensee has misled the Board in its description of the stipulation. In a prehearing conference held on September 17, 1984, I informed the Board that TMIA would propose calling Dr. Myers as a witness if arrangements could be made through attorneys for the House of Representatives for him to appear to sponsor the Udall Report. The Board urged the parties to see if they could arrive at some accommodation as to his testimony because of the sensitivity of agency attempts to compel the testimony of a staff member of an NRC Congressional oversight committee.

On September 18, I spoke to Steve Ross, attorney for the House of Representatives, who indicated to me that Dr. Myers would be permitted to testify but that his testimony would be limited by restrictions imposed by the Speech and Debate Clause. Mr. Blake informed me that he visited Mr. Ross in his office the following day, September 19, and was informed as to the restrictions on any testimony by Dr. Myers and restrictions on any discovery of Dr. Myers by Licensee. Mr. Blake, according to my notes of a conversation I held with him later that day, stated that he had asked the company if he could propose entering into a stipulation to solve the potential problems with Dr. Myers' testimony. I indicated to him that I had no problem with that since TMIA intended to call Dr. Myers for the limited purpose of sponsoring the Udall Report and to testify as to the temperature range at which the zirconium-steam reaction occurs.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup>Dr. Myers is science advisor to the House Committee on the Interior and Insular Affairs. He is a physicist and familiar with basic reactor physics.



Page Four  
February 4, 1985  
Administrative Judges Letter

Within the next two days, Mr. Blake completed drafting the "Joint Mailgram Stipulation." In both drafts of the stipulation which I reviewed, Mr. Blake, not I for TMIA, included sections withdrawing interrogatories concerning Dr. Myers and his testimony. I had previously told Mr. Blake that these interrogatories and document requests appeared to me intended not to elicit useful or discoverable information but merely to harass TMIA and Dr. Myers. However, I at no time recommended that they be included in the stipulation or suggested that I would withdraw our proposal that Dr. Myers appear as a witness because TMIA feared responding to licensee's discovery requests. In fact, my legal opinion was then, as now, that the discovery requests simply because moot at such time as the parties stipulated to Dr. Myers' testimony.

Mr. Blake proceeded to expend what I perceived as extensive time and energy to ensure that we entered into a stipulation regarding Dr. Myers' testimony. I played little role, and expended little time or effort, in drafting or reviewing the Joint Mailgram Stipulation. TMIA's position was that it perceived no problem in presenting limited testimony from Dr. Myers on the Udall Report or in answering relevant discovery requests from GPU concerning that limited testimony.

Licensee's suggestion that TMIA somehow withdrew Dr. Myers' testimony in exchange for not having to answer certain interrogatories is simply knowing misrepresentation.

Finally, it is clear to me that this Licensing Board has no jurisdiction to base findings on observations of individuals who attended these hearings. Moreover, it appeared that on those occasion when Dr. Myers attended the hearings he was in the company of NRC personnel. This Board does not have any idea what the purpose of Dr. Myers' attendance was, and certainly could not substantiate the inference urged by the licensee.

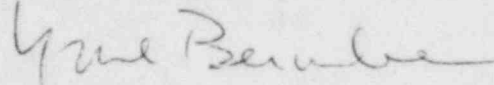
TMIA would consider it just as improper, for example, to rely in its findings on the fact that it observed five company attorneys in the hearing room during the testimony of Curtis Conrad, in addition to Mr. Conrad's personal counsel Mr. McBride.

TMIA, therefore, requests that this Board order licensee to amend its Findings to delete footnote 21 on page 92 since it

page 5  
February 4, 1985  
Administrative Judges Letter

currently appears in the public record of this case. Further, TMIA requests that licensee counsel be admonished that this conduct not be repeated in the future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lynne Bernabei".

Lynne Bernabei

Attorney for  
Three Mile Island Alert

cc: TMI Service List