

SECRET NUMBER 50-445,446

SECRET NUMBER PR-2 549  
(46 FR 17216)

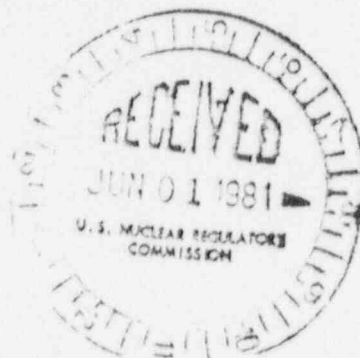
## RED ALERT !!!

We need your help on this one. I know with your busy schedule it'll be hard to work this in, but I really believe your input can help make the difference.

The NRC has proposed rule changes which would speed up the operating license hearings for the Comanche Peak plant and others to the point of making it virtually impossible for intervenors such as CASE to effectively participate.

Among other things, the proposed changes would eliminate the opportunity for intervenors to engage in formal discovery with the NRC Staff (i.e., Although the NRC Staff and the utility would still be able to ask written questions and intervenors would have to answer in writing, under oath, and have to supply requested documents, intervenors would not be able to ask written questions and have the NRC Staff supply sworn answers in writing, under oath, and requested documents. It would instead only require the NRC Staff to produce discoverable information at the time of the hearings when intervenors cross-examine NRC Staff witnesses. We know from our experience in the rate hearings through the years that this will make it completely impossible for us to effectively participate.)

Another major change is the stringent time-table which they propose for the hearings and motions, etc. There's no way intervenors can meet the deadlines they seek to impose.



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*Handwritten notes:*  
I've not let this happen to us  
before. Mathews  
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