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2342 Queens Avenue West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 2Y6

July 17, 1979.

Joseph P. Hendrie
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie

The Sierra Club of Western Canada has recently been reawakened to the proposed Sedro Woolley nuclear power plants in Washington state.

We wish to bring to your attention our interest and concerns with the proposal.

The project will consist of 2 1,000 MW reactors located 32 miles south of the international boundary, 5 miles east of Sedro Woolley in the Skagit Valley.

At previous licensing hearings evidence was presented by expert witnesses indicating an active fault 2-3 km from the proposed plant site. The project proponents have not been able to counter this with evidence of their own.

The southern Georgia Strait-Vancouver Island-Fraser Sound region is a well known and active seismic area subject to earthquakes of magnitude 7.5. Research has led to conclusions that surface faults are of no use in predicting the location of future earthquakes. Thus the proposed Sedro Woolley plant could be subjected to an earthquake severe enough to disrupt the facility.

Should there be a core meltdown and a breach of containment accident at the facility, a large number of radionuclides will be released to the environment. WASH 740 indicates that such an accident could contaminate an area the size of Pennsylvania with 25,000 fatalities and 100,000 casualties. Pennsylvania is 35,333 sq. miles in area, the same as a circle with a radius of 120 miles.

The area covered by such a radius extends up Vancouver Island to Qualicum Beach, Chehalis Peninsula, Whistler, Lytton and Veroneos. An 80 mile radius covers Vancouver Island to Nanaimo and the whole Fraser Valley to Hope.

The dominant winds from cedro woolley are from the southeast or southwest 75% of the time. The dominant winds in the lower mainland are from the southeast, southwest and east along the mountains. Based on average wind velocities a radioactive plume would cover the area in 10 hours.

The lower mainland and Fraser valley being downwind of the proposed facility will receive the majority of any radioactivity released in a breach of containment accident. Such a prospect would be an international incident of the most serious nature. The consequences of such an international incident between Canada and the United States are unfathomable. While the Sierra Club have no doubts that Canadians would welcome American refugees at the time of the accident there is no way of estimating how future relations on a personal level will be.

In the interests of amiable international relations between Canada and the United States, the Sierra Club of Western Canada calls upon all parties concerned to see that the proposed cedro woolley nuclear plant is not allowed to proceed.

Sincerely

Robert Viles
Secretary
Sierra Club of Western Canada