



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

September 29, 1978

NRC PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM

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Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Mr. Frederick J. Shon
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

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In the Matter of
Public Service Company of Oklahoma
Associated Electric Cooperative,
Inc. and Western Farmers Electric
Cooperative, Inc.
(Black Fox Station, Units 1 and 2)
Docket Nos. STN 50-556 & STN 50-557



Gentlemen:

This letter is to advise the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that pursuant to the ruling in Duke Power Company (William B. McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2), ALAB-143, 623 AEC 625-26 (September, 1973), new information concerning the Black Fox Nuclear Station site has been reported by Public Service Company of Oklahoma. On September 26, 1978, Public Service Company of Oklahoma notified an NRC Region IV Inspection and Enforcement officer who was present at the Black Fox site of what they termed a "geological anomaly" which had been uncovered during trenching operations at the site. Following that notification, the site was inspected by the geologists of PSO and the NRC's Region IV Inspection and Enforcement Branch.

Telephone conversations between PSO, I&E Region IV, the Geosciences Branch of the NRC, and the Nuclear Reactor Regulation Project Manager were held on September 28 and 29, 1978 for a preliminary assessment of the matter. As indicated in the three enclosed I&E and Staff reports, the anomaly appears to be a depression or dipping in a drywood coal seam and contains some offset which could be an indication of the presence of a fault. No information is currently available as to the capability of the anomaly.

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Public Service Company is now proceeding with more trenching to learn more about the anomaly. The NRC Staff has required that the further trenching be done in such a manner as to assure that the geologic feature will be preserved for further study. Following a more complete trenching of the area, the NRC's Geological Sciences Branch and NRC Regional Inspection and Enforcement geologists will inspect the feature thoroughly.

The Staff will keep the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board apprised of the status of the investigation and will present more information on the matter at the upcoming Radiological Health and Safety Hearings which will be held on October 10-20, 1978.

Sincerely,



L. Dow Davis
Counsel for NRC Staff

cc: Joseph Gallo, Esq.
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Mr. Clyde Wisner
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Dr. M. J. Robinson
Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Docketing and Service Section

STATUS OF "GEOLOGIC ANOMALY" AT BLACK FOX SITE (BLACK FOX STATION
UNITS 1 AND 2)

1. About noon on September 27, 1978, I&E Region IV advised the NRR Project Manager that Public Service Company of Oklahoma (the applicant) had discovered a "geologic anomaly" while trenching at the site of its proposed Black Fox Station near Tulsa, Oklahoma. No details of the anomaly were known at that time.
2. Early in the afternoon on September 27, 1978, the NRR Project Manager and representatives of the Geosciences Branch communicated with both the applicant and I&E Region IV concerning the anomaly. The applicant indicated that its geologists were investigating the anomaly and would call us back when more information became available. I&E Region IV indicated that a geologist from the I&E Region II had been dispatched to the Black Fox site. The Geosciences Branch decided to await more definitive information before sending any representatives to the site. The applicant was requested and agreed to not disturb further the immediate area surrounding the anomaly.
3. Late in the afternoon on September 27, 1978, the applicant provided representatives of the Geosciences Branch with preliminary information concerning the anomaly. The anomaly was apparently pointed out to an inspector from I&E Region IV during a site visit on September 26, 1978. The anomaly was characterized as dipping in a drywood coal seam.
4. On September 28, 1978, representatives of the applicant and I&E Regions II and IV surveyed the trenchings. It was decided to schedule a conference call among representatives of the applicant, I&E Region IV, the Geosciences Branch, and the NRR Project Manager on the morning of September 29, 1978, to discuss the geologist's findings.
5. On the morning of September 29, 1978, the aforementioned conference call was held. Besides the depression in the drywood coal seam, which was apparently not unexpected from bore log information, some offset was observed indicating the presence of a fault. The applicant provided preliminary information concerning the details of the fault. The applicant is proceeding to trench along the various projections of the fault and to map and photograph the details of both the depression and fault. The Geosciences Branch indicated that it plans to visit the site when the trenching is completed, presumably during the week of October 8, 1978. OELD is in the process of advising the sitting Black Fox ASLB of this matter.



NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

September 27, 1978

Docket Nos: STN 50-556
STN 50-557

FLASH NOTE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Steven A. Varga, Chief, Light Water Reactors Branch 4
FROM: Cecil O. Thomas, Project Manager, LWR-1
SUBJECT: DISCOVERY OF "GEOLOGIC ANOMALY" AT BLACK FOX SITE
(BLACK FOX STATION UNITS 1 AND 2)

This is to advise you that at 11:15 am today (September 27, 1978), Bill Seidle of Region IV called me concerning the discovery of a "geologic anomaly" at the Black Fox site. Bill told me that Bill Hubacek, a Region IV inspector, was at Public Service Company of Oklahoma's (PSO's) corporate headquarters in Tulsa, Oklahoma this morning and was advised by PSO that during trenching operations at the site, a "geologic anomaly" was discovered in an area which is scheduled to be excavated on Saturday, September 30. No further information concerning the nature of the "geologic anomaly" is known at this time.

Bill Seidle advised me that he had contacted I&E Headquarters and a geologist, Jack Harris of Region II, is to be dispatched to the Black Fox site as soon as he can be contacted (Jack is apparently in the field at a location where he cannot be contacted by telephone). I told Bill Seidle that I would advise the Geosciences Branch and my management of this matter and would get back to him concerning the possibility of our sending someone to the site. Bill agreed to keep me informed of any further developments.

Cecil O. Thomas

Cecil O. Thomas
Project Manager
Light Water Reactors Branch 1
Division of Project Management

cc: D. Vassallo
R. Boyd
C. Stepp, DSE
S. Wastler, DSE
D. Davis, OELD

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

September 28, 1978

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-78-173

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

FACILITY: Public Service Company of Oklahoma
Black Fox, Units 1 & 2
DN 50-556; 50-557

SUBJECT: ANOMALY IDENTIFIED IN EXCAVATION AREA

During a site tour on September 26, 1978, the Region IV project inspector was informed of a geological disturbance which had been identified during the trenching of the main excavation area.

The extent or character of the problem is not known at this time, but appears to involve sufficient past movement to pinch out one or more established coal seams in the area. The licensee's geological consultant, Shannon & Wilson, is investigating and mapping the anomaly.

The Region II geologist has been dispatched to the Black Fox site to inspect and evaluate the extent and significance of the problem. He will arrive in the afternoon of September 28.

There is no media interest at present.

Region IV received notification at 8:30 a.m. September 27, 1978, by telephone from the NRC inspector. The information is current as of 3:30 p.m. on September 27, 1978.

Contact: FADreher, IE x27551 GWReinmuth, IE x27551 HDThornburg, IE x28484

Distribution: Transmitted H St 3:17

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Commissioner Gilinsky

Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Ahearne

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J. G. Davis, IE
Region _____

(MAIL)
O. G. Abston, OIA
R. Minogue, SD

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION