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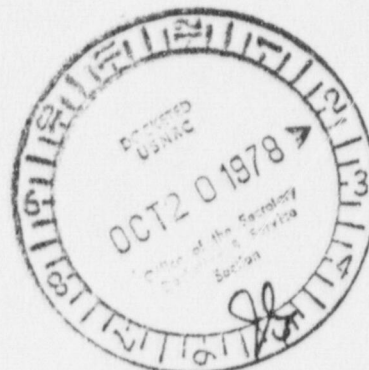
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NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE

OF THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM B-371-B-C
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

October 11, 1978



Chairman Joseph M. Hendrie
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Chairman Hendrie:

Site suitability and environment hearings on the Black Fox Station, Units 1 and 2, apparently have been completed. The safety hearings were to be held on October 10, 1978. I have serious concerns about the conduct of these hearings.

It has come to my attention that a limited work authorization for the units may be granted even though there is a serious question about the availability of water for the reactors. Has the question of water availability over the life time of the reactors been studied? Is sufficient water available?

Furthermore, I understand that the pre-safety hearing decision by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board disallowed many of the safety contentions raised by intervenors and did not allow many of the witnesses to testify about safety shortcomings. Why are people not being allowed to testify?

Some of the safety contentions raised appear to be very well founded and significant. For example, the flow through vibration problems are of such a serious nature with the G.E. reactors involved that Nebraska Public Power is suing G.E. for \$125 million. Yet it appears that intervenors wishing to address this issue were given no opportunity before the Licensing Board. Also, there is a corrosion-of-pipes problem. These safety issues deserve

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Joseph M. Hendrie

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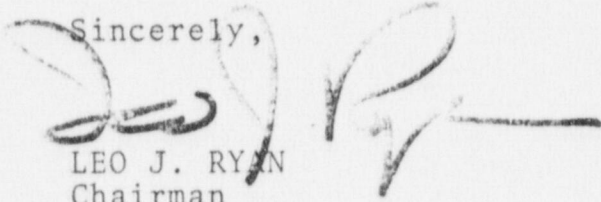
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the fullest examination by the Board. From the examining Board's order, one must conclude that a harshly legalistic attitude precludes a full consideration of these issues. If the Board doesn't want to confront the safety witnesses in public, I believe that their testimony should be made part of the record.

A limited work authorization should not be granted on these plants until the safety issues have been fully examined and resolved.

Please forward to me copies of the safety hearings and a listing of those people who testified.

Sincerely,


LEO J. RYAN
Chairman