

April 11, 2002

Mr. John C. Ameno, Jr., President
Apollo Borough Council
405 North Pennsylvania Avenue
Apollo, Pennsylvania 15613

Dear Mr. Ameno:

I am responding on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter of January 17, 2002, in which you requested assistance related to the health and safety of the citizens of the Apollo Borough. You also expressed concern about the negative economic impact caused by the closure of the former Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) Apollo site to your community.

At the outset, I should note that NRC's jurisdiction in the Apollo case extends only to ensuring that the B&W Company has met the applicable health and safety requirements before terminating the license. In that regard, NRC terminated the license for the B&W Apollo site only after completing a comprehensive technical review. As stated in the enclosed letter to the B&W Company dated April 14, 1997, NRC's review included analysis of NRC's inspection results, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education's (an NRC contractor) confirmatory surveys, B&W's termination surveys, and B&W's groundwater monitoring program results. Based on this review, the NRC determined that the Apollo site met the stringent regulatory requirements for license termination in accordance with NRC's regulations in 10 CFR Part 20. Consequently, we believe that this site does not pose a hazard to the health and safety of the citizens of the Borough of Apollo.

Although the issues raised in your letter concerning the economic difficulties facing the Borough are serious, they concern matters that are beyond NRC's statutory authority. Therefore, we are unable to address those issues.

If you have any further question or comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: As stated