

June 23, 2004

Dr. Mark Johnson
Senior Regional Representative
Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry
EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Room 413, Mail Stop 4J
Chicago, IL 60604

Dr. Johnson:

In January 2003, Exelon Generation Company, LLC., submitted applications to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to renew the operating licenses for Dresden Nuclear Station, Units 2 and 3, near the town of Morris in Grundy County, Illinois. NRC conducted an assessment of the environmental impact of an additional 20 years of operation at Dresden and prepared a draft environmental impact statement (Supplement 17 to NUREG-1437). The final statement will be published in July 2004. As part of the review process, NRC conducted public meetings in Morris, IL. During those meetings, Dr. and Mrs. Sauer expressed concerns about the health of the people living around the Dresden plant. They also sent the NRC several letters and made statements at a public meeting related to the update of NUREG-1437, a generic assessment of the environmental impact of license renewal for nuclear power plants. Copies of all of these letters and public meeting statements are enclosed. Their concerns focus on the health statistics for Grundy County since 1990. They believe these statistics show alarming increases in the rates of infant mortality and juvenile cancer, and they have requested that health studies be conducted in the local area around the Dresden plant. The purpose of this letter is to request that Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry review these statements and the underlying health statistics and respond, as appropriate, directly to Dr. and Mrs. Sauer.

As part of our review of the environmental impact, we discussed these concerns with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois Department of Public Health. The officials contacted did not believe that the underlying health statistics for Grundy County show excess infant mortalities or juvenile cancers or warrant local health studies. We have enclosed copies all of the letters and information related to health statistics we sent to the Sauers. This information includes the Health and Hazardous Substances Registry Newsletter from the Illinois Department of Public Health dated Fall 2000 and entitled, "Pediatric Cancer Incidence and Proximity to Nuclear Facilities in Illinois," and NIH Publication No. 90-874, "Cancer in Populations Living Near Nuclear Facilities." We have not enclosed the NIH Publication; it is several inches thick and is available free online from U. S. Department of Health and Human Services website. We have also not enclosed all the reports by Exelon and the NRC related to radiological effluents, environmental radiological monitoring, and inspections that we sent to the Sauers. If you need those reports to conduct your assessment, we will provide them to you. They are all publically available, and they show that radiological effluents released from Dresden have been within NRC limits.

M. Johnson

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If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Richard L. Emch, Jr., Senior Project Manager, at (301) 415-1590 or rle@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Docket Nos.: 50-237 and 50-249

Enclosures:

Excerpts from transcript, dated 07/10/2003 NRC public meeting in Oak Lawn, IL
Excerpts from transcript, dated 01/14/2004 NRC public meeting in Morris, IL
Letter from C. Sauer to President Bush, dated 02/04/04 (referred to NRC on 02/24/04)
Letter from Dr. Sauer, dated 04/18/2004 to NRC
Letter from C. Sauer, dated 04/19/2004 to NRC
Letter from Dr. Sauer, dated 05/20/2004 to NRC
Letter from C. Sauer, dated 05/21/2004 to NRC
Letter to C. Sauer, dated 04/01/2004 from NRC
Letter to C. Sauer, dated 04/16/2004 from NRC
Letter to Dr. and C. Sauer, dated 06/09/2004 from NRC
Health and Hazardous Substances Registry Newsletter from the Illinois Department of Public Health dated Fall 2000 (publically available at www.idph.state.il.us//about/epi/pdf/article.pdf)

cc w/o enclosures: See next page

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Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Docket Nos.: 50-237 and 50-249

Enclosures:

- Excerpts from transcript, dated 07/10/2003 NRC public meeting in Oak Lawn, IL (ML032260318)
- Excerpts from transcript, dated 01/14/2004 NRC public meeting in Morris, IL (ML040790096)
- Letter from C. Sauer to President Bush, dated 02/04/04 (referred to NRC on 02/24/04) (ML040900300)
- Letter from Dr. Sauer, dated 04/18/2004 to NRC (ML041130477)
- Letter from C. Sauer, dated 04/19/2004 to NRC (ML041130477)
- Letter from Dr. Sauer, dated 05/20/2004 to NRC (ML041490037)
- Letter from C. Sauer, dated 05/21/2004 to NRC (ML041470167)
- Letter to C. Sauer, dated 04/01/2004 from NRC (ML040930237)
- Letter to C. Sauer, dated 04/16/2004 from NRC (ML040990334)
- Letter to Dr. and C. Sauer, dated 06/09/2004 from NRC (ML041560573)
- Health and Hazardous Substances Registry Newsletter from the Illinois Department of Public Health dated Fall 2000 (publically available at www.idph.state.il.us//about/epi/pdf/article.pdf)

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