

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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ACTION OFFICE:

EDO / OGR

To: Dyer, NRR
Ref. G20040674

AUTHOR:

Richard Christie

cys: EDO

AFFILIATION:

UT

DEDMRS

ADDRESSEE:

Nils Diaz

DEDH

SUBJECT:

Aging nuclear power plants..urges the increase in safety supervision of re-licensing of existing
nuc reactors...

DEDM

AO

DEDR

OPA

Kim, DEDR

ACTION:

Appropriate

DISTRIBUTION:

RF

LETTER DATE:

09/26/2004

ACKNOWLEDGED

No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

Made publicly available via SECY/EDO/DPC

NOTES:

OCM #6052...EDO....coordinate with OGC as appropriate

FILE LOCATION:

ADAMS

DATE DUE:

DATE SIGNED:

6052

CHAIRMAN RECORD

04 OCT -5 AM 9:43

3018 Old City Park Road
Moab, Utah 84532
September 26, 2004

Dr. Nils J. Diaz, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Dr. Diaz:

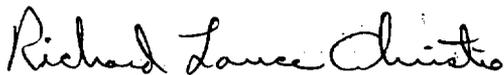
Aging nuclear power plants present a significant health and safety risk for the public and environment due to fatigue and corrosion. As a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists, I urge you to increase the safety supervision of re-licensing of existing nuclear reactors across the country, not weaken it. The re-licensing process must include the full and meaningful participation of members of the public such as myself; involvement which the NRC has itself found enhances safety levels by pointing out errors of commission and omission in draft proposals.

If existing nuclear reactors are to be re-licensed for 20-year terms, they should have to meet current safety standards, and have strong aging-management programs to detect infrastructure failures from fatigue and corrosion before these manifest themselves in high risk of radioactive containment failure.

As you are aware, the Davis-Besse nuclear plant near Toledo, Ohio, was found in 2002 to have a large corrosion-caused hole in the metal pot used to contain its nuclear fuel. Only a 3/16ths inch stainless steel veneer, installed for an unrelated purpose, prevented loss of coolant. According to your own agency report, Davis-Besse was as little as two months away from a nuclear reactor coolant failure. Warning signs of problems were documented as ignored by the NRC. It was public oversight of these failures by the UCS which helped force closure of the plant until critical safety problems were fixed, and then caused the same problems to be looked for and corrected in 68 other plants on an accelerated schedule.

The NRC has recently revised rules for re-licensing nuclear power plants to curtail public participation, eliminate public viewing of internal plant documents, and cross-examine plant managers concerning issues found in this review. This is a giant step backwards for nuclear safety, and needs to be reversed.

Sincerely yours,



Richard Lance Christie