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"Improve the economic well-being of agriculture and enrich the quality of farm family life."

May 11, 2005

3/10/05

70 FR 12022

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Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T6-D59
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Comments on report number NUREG-1815

Dear Sir/Madam:

Illinois Farm Bureau supports the construction of a second reactor at Exelon's nuclear power station near Clinton, Illinois. Additional electric generation capacity is needed to meet the growing demand for electrical power in the United States. The Exelon proposal to construct and operate a new nuclear power generating facility would supply new electrical power to a wide range of consumers.

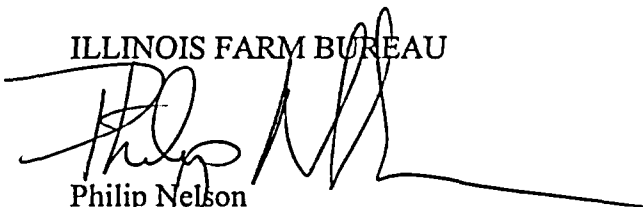
Recent studies by the University of Chicago and others have found that nuclear generation can be an efficient and cost-competitive option to coal and natural gas generators. In the face of volatile oil and gas supplies, this is an opportunity to reduce our reliance on foreign energy sources. Natural gas, in particular, is an important source of fertilizer for agriculture and increasing use of natural gas for generating electricity is placing a financial burden on farmers through higher fertilizer prices.

According to industry experts, twenty percent of the electric power used in the United States is provided by 103 existing nuclear power plants. That available generation is aging, with the newest plant beginning operation in 1996. We believe it is time to move forward to guarantee the future of nuclear generation with the construction of advanced-design reactors. It is our understanding that the proposed second reactor at Clinton is one of the advanced-design models.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU


Philip Nelson
President

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