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5/16/05*

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch,
Division of Administrative Services,
Office of Administration,
Mailstop T-6D59,
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

*3/10/05
NO FR 1202.2
15*

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to support the ESP application at the Excelon ESP Site (Tac # MC1125). I am a life long resident of Harp Township, a graduate of the University of Illinois, and a farmer for 31 years, Highway Commissioner for Harp Township for 29 years, and am currently serving as the Land Use Chairman for the DeWitt County Board. Yes, I have an interest in the safety and the future possible construction of Unit 2 at the Clinton Power Station. I grew up on the sight of the current power plant and reside about 4 miles from the plant today.

I would like to comment on the draft report for the Excelon ESP Site. On page 2-62 the Cultural Background 2-9.1 line 31 a correction should be made the Methodist Church at Birkbeck has been torn down. Page 4-20 section 4.5.1.3 Roads: I would like to comment that as the Harp Township Highway Commissioner, I would say that the local roads serving the power plant site are adequate and are able to handle the expected traffic. We had 14-foot wide gravel roads that served the area before construction of Unit 1. Many of these roads only had 20 cars per day prior to construction of Unit 1. During the construction the roads were upgraded to 20 ft. asphalt roadways that handled up to 700 cars per day. Currently over-weight loads are brought into the Clinton Power Plant on Harp Township roads because of weight-restricted bridges on Route 54. Page 4-24 section 4.5.3.2 Taxes, I would like to challenge the statement that no new property taxes would be paid during construction. During the construction of Unit 1 assessed value was increased as construction progressed. I would expect the same to happen for new construction unless waived by the local taxing bodies.

I would now like to offer testimony concerning the ESP for the Site. First of all I believe that nuclear power should be a larger part of our energy supply. It is an absolute travesty to waste a finite resource such as natural gas to create electricity. The impact of limited gas supplies and increasing demands has made it financially impossible for low-income families to heat their homes. As a farmer, my fertilizer costs have doubled as the price of precious natural gas has increased.

For the people that are concerned about the safety of nuclear power, I ask what alternatives do you want? Lives are lost every year in coal mine accidents, people are killed running into coal trains, natural gas explosions kill people, and the alternative of wind power sounds good until you really need the power on those hot, sultry, humid and windless days in August. We need dependable base load plants to prevent brown outs during the peak demand periods.

*SISP Review Complete
Template = ADM-013*

*F-REDS = ADM-03
Call = T. Henyon (542)*

Risk is a part of life. For the concerned folks from Bloomington and Champaign, I would offer that having a nuclear plant in Clinton must not be a great concern or these cities would not be the boom towns of downstate Illinois. If you were really threatened by the fact of living 25 miles from a nuclear plant, would you be living where you live? Or do you live where you do because of quality of life, good jobs and adequate power supplies? All of us took a much greater risk in driving to this meeting tonight than in living next to a nuclear power plant. We need to keep things in perspective; we in Illinois did not experience drastic increases in our electricity rates or shortages of power because the utility companies invested in nuclear power 30 years ago. We cannot take the attitude of the NIMBY groups without running the risk of making Illinois another California.

As I stated earlier, I grew up on the sight of the Clinton Power Plant. Upon graduation from the Uof I, I was offered to be the 2nd man on the job for construction but choose to continue farming . I was a part of many hearings and local emergency training programs as construction progressed. I know from experience that the plant is safe. We need to look at the 3-Mile Island incident and understand that because of that man made incident many protective redundancies were built into current and future designs to make them safe.

I could go on for hours expressing my opinion that we should be absolutely looking to nuclear power as our energy source of the future. I hope that we can all agree that the Clinton sight would be a good choice for the next nuclear power facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Ferguson".

Terry Ferguson
RR#3 Box 205
Clinton, IL 61727