UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

November 18, 1970

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FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE

Description: DOCKET NO. 50-247, CONSOLIDATED EDISON CO., Notice of Hearing on An Operating License (Indian Point 2)

Citation: 35 F.R. 17679

Date Filed: November 16, 1970

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Action Date: Hearing will be held at 10 a.m. on December 17, 1970 in the New York State Armory, 955 Washington Street, Peekskill, N. Y.

A prehearing conference will be held on December 1, 1970 at 10 a.m. at the Hendrik Hudson High School Auditorium, Albany Post Road, Montrose, N. Y.

Board Members:
Dr. John C. Geyer, Baltimore, Md.
Mr. R. B. Briggs, Oak Ridge, Tenn.
Samuel W. Jensch, Esq., Washington, D. C., Chairman
Dr. Walter H. Jordan, Oak Ridge, Tenn. Technical Alternate
J. D. Bond, Esq., Derwood, Md., Administrative Alternate

Nancy Lee Dube
Division of Reactor Licensing

cc: N. Brown, RL
Chrono File, RL

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OCT 23 1970

SCHROEDER
~~BOYD~~
~~SKOVHOLT~~
~~WILSON~~
~~DEYOUNG~~

~~R. Tedesco~~
~~R. Ireland~~

NOTE TO MARVIN M. MANN

DRESDEN 1 AND 2 RELEASES (D-1 & D-2)

I have attached two articles relating to radioactive releases from the Dresden site.

It should be noted that D-1 is operating at 100% power with a stack release rate of 40,000 microcuries per second. D-2, just prior to shutdown (October 13, 1970), was releasing at a rate of 80,000 microcuries per second while at 100% power. The combined releases are 14% of the discharge limit, contained in the Technical Specifications, for the Dresden site.

Dresden 2's shutdown was extended because radioactivity was detected in the water of the oil fired house boiler. The cause of the radioactivity was traced to tube leaks in the liquid waste concentrator. The unavailability of the liquid waste concentrator, combined with the existence of a large volume of liquid waste, has delayed reactor startup. The licensee has told our inspectors that it will take 10 weeks to replace the tube bundle in the liquid waste concentrator; however, they hope to develop an alternative to the use of the concentrator to permit reactor startup by Saturday, October 24, 1970. Our inspectors are reviewing this matter at the site.

Dave

Dave Low

Enclosures:
1. Article - Chicago Sun-Times, 10/22/70
2. Article - The Evening Star, 10/22/70

cc w/encls:
H. L. Price, DR
C. K. Beck, DR
S. H. Hanauer, DR
~~A. Morris, DRL~~
A. Giambusso, CO
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J. Fouchard, PI
J. Dinunno, GM
S. Levine, GM

Link of infant deaths, A-plant emissions disputed

By Bruce Ingersoll

Infant death rates in counties downwind from the Dresden nuclear power plant near Morris, Ill., are linked with the plant's discharge of radioactive gases, a University of Pittsburgh scientist said in Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday.

Prof. Ernest J. Sternglass told a panel of Pennsylvania state senators looking into the public-health hazards of nuclear power that infant mortality in Grundy, Kankakee and Livingston counties rose and fell with the amount of radiation being released from Commonwealth Edison Co.'s Dresden plant in the mid-1960s.

Company officials and several independent scientists have taken strong issue with Sternglass' contentions, however.

Reached by telephone after he had testified, Sternglass said no such correlation could be noted in the vital statistics of counties upwind from the 10-year-old nuclear plant.

Rises up to 141 pct.

In 1966, he said, death rates of babies less than a year old showed a 141 per cent increase over 1964 in Grundy, where the plant is located; a 140 per cent rise in Livingston, and a 43 per cent rise in Kankakee County.

These increases followed an eightfold jump in the emission of krypton, xenon and other radioactive gases between 1963 and 1965, he maintained.

Com Ed skeptical

Bryon Lee Jr., assistant to the Commonwealth Edison president, said he was "very skeptical" of the coincidence of infant mortality and radiation from Dresden.

"Sternglass, for one thing, has the prevailing wind direction wrong," Lee claimed.

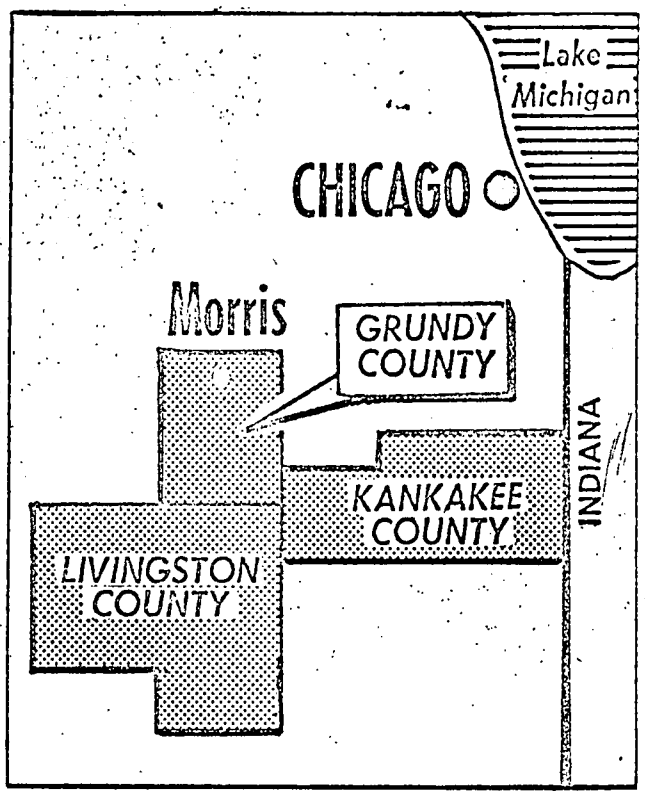
Sternglass, a frequent critic of the Atomic Energy Commission and the nuclear power industry, said the wind is out of the northwest more than any other direction and described "downwind" as being south and southeast of the plant.

What is downwind?

Lee said an 18-month Edison study at Dresden in 1968-1969 showed the wind as variable, blowing out of the southwest 34 per cent of the time, northwest 24 per cent, southeast 24 per cent and northeast 18 per cent. "This would indicate it is impossible to say which counties are downwind or upwind," he said.

"He has done these kind of studies in the past, and in almost every case, reputable members of the scientific community have pretty much taken his studies apart. They are pretty weak" Lee asserted.

In reply, Sternglass, a radiologist, said his Dresden study was "the same type of statistical analysis that was used to show the link between cancer and smoking."



Map locates three Downstate counties where infant death rates reportedly are affected by emissions from nuclear power plant near Morris. (Sun-Times Map)

U.S. Report noted

Lee contended emissions from the Dresden smokestack posed no threat to public health.

He cited a recent report on a U.S. Bureau of Radiological Health study that found "external exposure from radioactive gases . . . was only a small fraction of the natural 'background' radiation and was well within the Federal Radiation Council's (guideline)."

Different standards noted

After checking snow, drinking water, milk, cabbage, cattle thyroid glands and other

parts of the environment, federal radiologists concluded that no measurable radiation was tainting food and water in the Dresden area, Lee said.

Sternglass pointed out in the interview that federal radiation standards and guidelines are set for the adult and not for the fetus developing in a pregnant woman.

He said radioactive gases decay into radioisotopes that can affect the fetus if inhaled by a pregnant woman. "The developing embryo is highly sensitive to radiation," Sternglass said.

The chief causes of infant mortality are respiratory diseases, influenza and pneumonia, Sternglass said, and "the subtle effects of radiation on the organs of the infant limit its ability to fight off infectious diseases."

Shutdown wanted

Sternglass said he favors shutting down Dresden and all other boiling-water nuclear reactors until they can be fitted with devices to reduce radioactive emissions to nearly zero.

He shares the opinion of Dr. Bertram Carnow, medical director of the Tuberculosis Institute of Chicago and Cook County, that this type of reactor is far "dirtier" than pressurized-water reactors.

In a speech Wednesday at the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel, Carnow criticized Commonwealth Edison for bulding two more boiling-wter reactors at Dresden.

"They are very dirty, emitting the most dangerous pollutants of all," he told a kickoff luncheon for the TB Institute's Christmas Seal drive. "Edison officials have been advised to to space them (boiling-water reactors) out."

Infant Death Rate Rise Noted Near Nuclear Power Plant

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—A radiology professor has testified that the infant mortality rate has increased in an area surrounding a nuclear power reactor near Morris, Ill.

Dr. Ernest J. Sternglass, professor of radiation physics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, spoke yesterday before a Pennsylvania Senate Committee studying nuclear power plants.

The professor said he was presenting results of a study he and a group of students made on the child mortality rate near the plant. The Dresden operation has been generating electricity since 1959 and is located 50 miles southwest of Chicago.

"Just prior to the start-up of the Dresden Reactor, the states of Illinois and New York had closely similar infant mortality rates of 24.9 and 24.5 per 1,000 live births respectively," Sternglass testified.

"However, in 1964, a year after the rapid rise in emission from Dresden, the mortality rate for Illinois began a sharp climb while that in New York began to decline, giving rise to a period when the Illinois infant death rates exceeded those for New York by 2.7 per 1,000 births in 1968, with an absolute peak of 25.6 per 1,000 births in 1965."

Leroy Stratton, director of the Radiological Health Bureau of the Illinois Public Health Department, said later in Springfield, Ill., that even if the infant mortality rate had increased, "there are many things besides radiation that could or may have contributed."

A Commonwealth Edison Co. official also challenged the report. Byron Lee Jr., assistant to the firm's president, said he is confident radiation emissions from the plant poses no threat to public health.

Lee cited a recent report on a U.S. Bureau of Radiological Health study which he said found "external exposure from radioactive gases . . . was only a small fraction of the natural 'background' radiation and was well within the Federal Radiation Council's guidelines."

Sternglass said the increases appear to have occurred from the radioactive gases released in the normal operation of the Dresden reactor.

The professor said the Dresden plant uses a boiling water reactor, which is not in use at all nuclear power plants. He said a pressurized water reactor used in a nuclear plant at Shippingport, Pa., for example, is not nearly as dangerous as the Dresden operation.

Sternglass said two-thirds of Illinois' population, about 6.6 million people, lives within 50 miles of the reactor. The infant mortality rates increased and decreased according to the rise and decline of the gaseous activity released into the air from the plant, he said.

A similar correlation, he said, existed for death rates for all age groups.

Sternglass suggested the operation of the Dresden reactor be discontinued while devices were installed to trap the radioactive gases now released into the air.

Similar reactors should shut down for the same reason, while construction of large nuclear power reactors should be lated pending full studies of their effects, Sternglass said.