

APR 3 1974

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Docket File (ENVIRON) 2

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EP-4 Reading

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EHughes

OGC

Public Proceedings Staff, SECY

Docket Nos. 50-438

and 50-439

Ms. Zella M. Jensen
Route 1, Box 86A
Grandview, Tennessee 37337

Dear Ms. Jensen:

Thank you for your postcard dated March 17, 1974, suggesting more research be done on solar energy instead of nuclear power reactors and expressing your concern about the environmental and radiological effects on man from the operation of the Bellefonte Nuclear Plant.

The primary function of the Directorate of Licensing is to license and regulate nuclear power plants, the production and utilization of nuclear fuels and materials and to maintain cognizance over operating nuclear power plants. The Directorate has no promotional or developmental function and no regulatory authority in non-nuclear related areas. The operating arm of the Atomic Energy Commission, (AEC), which does have a developmental responsibility, is not now heavily involved with solar energy research. Approximately \$50 million has been proposed for this research by the President although the agency that will direct this effort has not yet been named.

The AEC is currently actively involved with non-nuclear energy research in other areas. Geothermal energy, in-situ coal gasification, energy storage and energy transmission for example, are being investigated under AEC direction. Any suggestions or comments you may have relating to energy research within the AEC will be considered by the Division of Applied Technology, Mr. G. W. Johnson, Director. The mailing address is:

U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Division of Applied Technology
Washington, D. C. 20545

In regard to your concern about the danger of increased leukemia and lung cancer, the Commission report WASH-1250, "The Safety of Nuclear Power Reactors (Light-Water-Cooled) and Related Facilities" (particularly

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Ms. Zella M. Jensen

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Section 4.1.4), a copy of which is enclosed, presents a general discussion of radioactive effluents from nuclear power plants. During the environmental review of the Bellefonte plant, the Regulatory staff has thoroughly examined every potential pathway by which man may be exposed to radioactive effluents from the plant. Conservative estimates of exposures due to radioactive releases have been made and are reported in our Draft Environmental Statement for the proposed Bellefonte Plant in Section 5.3.2 beginning on page 5-11. A copy of the draft statement is also enclosed for your information.

A concurrent safety review is also being conducted to insure that construction and operation of the Bellefonte Plant will not result in risk to the health and safety of the public.

In regard to your concern about contamination from waste products, the AEC has consistently imposed rigorous standards in dealing with the disposal of radioactive waste from nuclear power plants. These include, among other things, solidification of any liquids prior to shipment, close control of the amount of radioactivity which may be shipped in a single shipping container, maximum level of radioactivity per shipment, ability of shipping containers to meet rigorous standards established by the Department of Transportation and AEC and establishment of specific criteria which must be met by facilities in which such solid wastes may be stored. These measures plus those imposed in controlling reprocessing facilities provide adequate safety in handling and storage of radioactive waste products.

I hope this discussion along with the enclosed information will illustrate the care with which the Regulatory staff of the AEC carries out a thorough and complete review and assessment of the environmental and health and safety impacts of the Bellefonte Plant to the public before a construction permit is issued.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Daniel R. Muller

Daniel R. Muller, Assistant Director
for Environmental Projects
Directorate of Licensing

Enclosures:

1. WASH-1250

2. Bellefonte Draft Environmental

OFFICE	Statement	1. EP-4	1. EP-4	1. EP-4	1. EP-4	1. EP-4
SURNAME	SP Reed	CDittman	pc/28	WRegan	DR Muller	
DATE	4/2/74	4/2/74	4/2/74	4/2/74	4/2/74	