

Enckots Nos. 50-266  
50-301  
50-305  
50-409

JAN 31 1978

The Honorable Gaylord Nelson  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

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This letter is in response to Mr. Louis Hanson's request of January 10, 1978 for a report on several issues of concern to your constituent, Mrs. Wend Schaefer. The letter to you from Mrs. Schaefer dated December 8, 1977 requested information concerning spent fuel pool capacity increases at nuclear power plants located in the State of Wisconsin.

By our letter of November 3, 1977 (enclosed) Mrs. Schaefer was sent copies of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and licensee documents on this subject. The NRC activities which have occurred subsequent to the events mentioned in the November 3, 1977 letter are described below.

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, on November 14, 1977, submitted an application to the NRC requesting approval of modifications which would increase the spent fuel storage capability at the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant. A copy of this application was placed in the local public document room at the Kewaunee Public Library, 314 Milwaukee Street, Kewaunee, Wisconsin, and a copy was sent to Mrs. Schaefer on January 11, 1978. The NRC has this application under consideration and has published a Notice of Proposed Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License in the FEDERAL REGISTER on December 30, 1977 (Citation No. 42 FR 65335).

An authorization to increase the spent fuel storage capability at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant was issued on May 20, 1976. The NRC has not received an application for further increasing the spent fuel storage capability at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant. However, we are aware that Wisconsin Electric Power Company is presently performing final design evaluations for the submittal of such an application. When an application is received, a copy will be placed in the local public document room at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Library, Stevens Point, Wisconsin. A Notice will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER prior to any action by the NRC.

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GD

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The Honorable Gaylord Nelson - 2 -

With regard to Mrs. Schaefer's concern over the issuance of a generic Environmental Impact Statement, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in its directive to NRC staff to prepare a generic environmental impact statement on handling and storage of spent light water power reactor fuel (September 16, 1975, 40 FR 42801) has specifically allowed expansion of at-reactor spent fuel storage pool capacity on a case-by-case basis during the period prior to completion of such a generic environmental impact statement. The Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Handling and Storage of Spent Light Water Power Reactor Fuel is expected to be issued in the next few weeks for public comment. The preliminary assessment reached by the staff in preparing this statement is that the Commission's decision to permit such expansions is sound and should not be rescinded. Furthermore, a report entitled "An Environmental Survey of the Reprocessing of the Waste Management Portions of the LWR (Light Water Reactor) Fuel Cycle" (NUREG 0116) was released in October 1976. Public comments have been received and are being reviewed.

Sincerely,

William J. Dircks  
Assistant Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosures:  
NRC letter dated  
November 3, 1977

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PWagner:mjf  
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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

NOV 3 1977

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Mrs. Wend Schaefer  
624 Mayflower Avenue  
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081

Dear Mrs. Schaefer:

Your letter of October 13, 1977 to the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been forwarded to me for reply. We have reviewed the status of spent fuel storage capability for those nuclear power plants located in Wisconsin (Point Beach, Kewaunee and LaCrosse) to determine if any expansion has been requested.

An increase in the spent fuel storage capability at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant was requested by Wisconsin Electric Power Company on March 28, 1975. Following our review and evaluation of their request, a license amendment was issued on October 20, 1975. A Notice of Proposed Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating License was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on May 20, 1975 in connection with this action. Copies of the notice and the license amendment which were placed in the local public document room at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Library, Stevens Point, Wisconsin are enclosed.

By letter dated June 7, 1977, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation advised the NRC that the utility intends to submit an application to increase the spent fuel storage capability at the Kewaunee Nuclear Plant. However, such an application has not yet been received. A copy of the June 7, 1977 letter was placed in the local public document room at the Kewaunee Public Library, 314 Milwaukee Street, Kewaunee, Wisconsin, and is enclosed.

The remaining facility, LaCrosse Nuclear Unit, which is operated by the Dairyland Power Cooperative, requested an increase in the spent fuel storage capability on December 12, 1974. Following the staff's review and evaluation of this request, a license amendment was issued on March 18, 1976. A Notice of Consideration of Proposed Modification to Facility Irradiated Fuel Storage Pool was published in the FEDERAL

Mrs. Wend Schaefer

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REGISTER on March 12, 1975 in connection with this action. Copies of the notice and the license amendment which were placed in the local public document room at the LaCrosse Public Library, 800 Main Street, LaCrosse, Wisconsin are enclosed.

Sincerely,

Edson G. Case, Acting Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. NRC letter dated May 13, 1975
2. NRC letter dated October 20, 1975
3. NRC letter dated March 5, 1975
4. NRC letter dated March 18, 1976
5. Wisconsin Public Service Corporation  
letter dated June 7, 1977