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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN Atomic Energy Commission
June 15, 1973
TO: Regulatory thru General Manager (OCA) INCOMING
FROM : Cong. Donald Fraser 6/7/73 (Date)
SUBJECT: Letter from constituent, Alpha Smaby, concerning scheduling public hearings on Northern States Power Co. Monticello and Prairie Island plants in Minnesota
Prepare reply for signature of:
ChairmanCommissioner
GM, DR, GC, PA, IS
Signature Block Omitted
Please return original with response
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x Chairman
Commissioners
Secretary
For Appropriate Action
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For Recommendation
REMARKS: No acknowledgement sent.
For the Chairman: Mennic Earle Harget
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ACTION SLIP

Copy sent PDR

DR-5746

DONALD M. FRASER
5TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

1111 House Office Building 202-225-4755

DALE MACIVER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 7, 1973

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MOVEMENTS

STATE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION
AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY AND SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS

FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMITTEE

Dr. D.L. Ray Chairman Atomic Energy Commission Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Dr. Ray:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Alpha Smaby concerning scheduling of public hearings on Northern States Power Company's Monticello and Prairie Island nuclear power plants in Minnesota.

I would appreciate a report on the questions raised by Ms. Smaby. Certainly these hearings should be scheduled in such a way as to encourage public and State participation.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Fraser

Enclosure

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1531 E. River Road Minneapolis, Minn. 55414

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May 25, 1973

The Honorable Donald M. Fraser ATTT ...

1111 Longworth Office Building Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fraser:

The Citizens of Minnesota have been placed in a dire predicament. We are faced with the operation of an unlicensed, untested nuclear power plant, Prairie Island, and with a Pollution Control Agency (PCA) that has been rendered helpless by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). The PCA, with Minnesota Environmental Control Citizens Association (MECCA), is an intervenor in an AEC Environmental Review Hearing for the Monticello plant. The PCA and Steve Gadler, a private citizen, are intervenors in the licensing hearings on Prairie Island.

The AEC is now threatening to schedule the Monticello and Prairie Island Hearings concurrently, which has forced the PCA, for lack of staff and money, to sign an agreement with NSP and the AEC that (1) it will stop all discovery on Prairie Island after August 15, (2) NSP will be allowed to fuel the plant, and (3) NSP will begin test operation of the plant.

Steve Gadler has refused to enter into this agreement because he feels that questions concerning fuel densification and the emergency core cooling system should have full public hearing before the plant if fueled and operated. The PCA has decided not to raise these questions because it does not have the staff to handle simultaneous hearings.

The question of scheduling overlapping hearings is appalling to me for two reasons. It is appalling that the AEC can schedule hearings in such a way as to render the MPCA powerless. It is also distressing that we pay three agencies which make decisions about the Prairie Island plant yet we will be denied a public hearing before that plant is fueled and operated. Our state taxes pay for the PCA to protect the quality of air and water for the people of Minnesota. Our federal taxes pay the AEC to encourage the use of nuclear energy and our rate monies finance the building and operation of Prairie Island and Monticello by NSP. When questions about the operation and safety of these two plants are raised, it seems only proper that full public hearings be held so that these questions can be completely explored.

Federal agencies must not be allowed to jeopardize the integrity of state agencies by placing them in situations where they lack the staff and the budget to do their job. Would you demand the AEC to schedule the two hearings in such a way as to allow the PCA to cover both hearings adequately and urge the AEC to withhold permits to fuel and operate the Prairie Island plant until a full public hearing is held?

Sincerely,

Alpha Smaby

AS:mkv