

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

CARDISS COLLINS

7TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

August 17, 1994

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Rathbun:


Members of Local 73 of the General Service Employees Union have contacted me about their concerns regarding plans by the Commonwealth Edison Company to replace most of the highly trained, armed security officers at Illinois nuclear facilities with lower skilled, unarmed guards.

They allege that efforts by Commonwealth Edison to save money by replacing armed security officers with unarmed guards compromises security at these facilities and represents an increased danger to the public. These concerns are serious and warrant your immediate attention.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter sent to me by the General Service Employees Union. Please respond to the concerns contained therein and advise me for a response to my constituents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


CARDISS COLLINS
Member of Congress

CC:bk

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PDR ADOCK 05000237
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1307
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PLEASE SEND REPLY TO:

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☐ 328 LAKE STREET
OAK PARK, IL 60302-2804
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General Service Employees Union
Local No. 73 SEIU AFL-CIO



1145 North Clark Street • Chicago, Illinois 60610 • Suite 500 • (312) 787-5868

DINO PIGONI
Trustee

THOMAS BALANOFF
Deputy Trustee



Fax (312) 337-7768

May 3, 1994

Representative Cardiss Collins
Rayburn House Office Building
Room 2308
Independence Avenue & So. Capital St., SW
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Collins:

I am contacting you on behalf of our membership to alert you to what we see as a matter of great concern to all residents of northern Illinois.

Local 73 has been involved in representing nuclear security officers (NSOs) for many years. I, for example, spent over a decade working at the Dresden Nuclear Station.

Based on our experience, we are appalled at Commonwealth Edison's (CECO) plan to disarm most security officers at their nuclear plants around northern Illinois. This action is made worse by the fact that CECO has already reduced the security force by over 30 percent during the past eighteen months.

At the time CECO pushed hard to construct more nuclear reactors in northern Illinois than anywhere else in the country, they made a commitment to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and more importantly to us, that they would maintain the highest level of safety and security possible to protect us.

Now that all their reactors are finished, CECO is telling us they want to save money by taking highly trained security officers and making them unarmed guards so they can pay them less money. This, at a time when terrorist threats have hit closer to home than at any time in our recent history.

They are arguing, through The Nuclear Energy Institute, that this is a coordinated plan that is nationwide and suggesting that the residents of northern Illinois should not have a say in the issue.

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Rather, they want this decided behind closed doors with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

We are asking for your help in moving this into a public forum, at the least, if the misguided plan can't be stopped outright.

I would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss our concerns.

Sincerely,


Thomas Brem, Recording Secretary
/Political Director

Enclosure: Press Release

cc: Thomas Balanoff

TB/baw