

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1303

August 21, 1997

Mr. Dennis K. Rathbun
Director, Office of Congressional Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Rathbun:

Enclosed is an inquiry I received from one of my constituents,
Ms. Adriane Hughes, regarding nuclear power plant safety.

Because of my desire to be responsive to all constituent
communications, your consideration of this matter is appreciated.
Please send your findings to the attention of Mr. Marcus Fruchter of
my staff.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours truly,



Carol Moseley-Braun
United States Senator

CMB:mdf

Enclosure

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1116 Hollingswood Ave.
Naperville, IL 60564

Senator Carol Moseley-Braun
Room 708, Hart Office building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 224-2854

Dear Senator Moseley- Braun,

A problem has been brought to my attention about some nuclear power plants that are under warning for not being safe. In my opinion, they should be shut down until the problem can be corrected. Keeping the plants open might leave time for something terrible to happen. Citizens might become paranoid and move away because of the power plants. There are other much more environment-friendly ways to create energy.

Allowing a plant to stay open when it has a problem would not be a wise decision by government officials or nuclear regulators. A leak in the core would not only endanger the workers, but surrounding neighborhoods due to the toxicity of the radioactive material. If the systems were shut down, they would create a safe environment to solve the difficulty. Examples of unattended nuclear problems were Chernobyl and the Five Mile Island incidents. We should learn from this experience and never make the same mistakes.

There are some misinformed and radical people that might become hysterical and make everyone else uncomfortable about the situation, also. For instance, a neighborhood association, not informed about nuclear power, could have discussions about this problem. Although, most nuclear power plants are safe, they could take this issue and blow it out of proportion. This is how neighborhoods are frightened and then do not listen to reason from anyone, especially the experts.

There are other fairly efficient means to develop power for America. I think that instead of researching how to make nuclear power plants efficient, we should figure out how to utilize solar power, make it easier to attain and more cost-efficient. Hydroelectricity and wind-power, also, could be better used to our advantage. Another route, suggested by environmentalists, is recycling refuse. Also, electric cars could save energy.

In conclusion, I believe that it would be safer to either use alternate energy resources or shut down problem plants. Also, the by-products of these nuclear plants are too hazardous to dispose of near any civilized area, and people can't predict where future generations will inhabit. Thank you for your time and patience.

Sincerely,

Adriane Hughes
Adriane Hughes