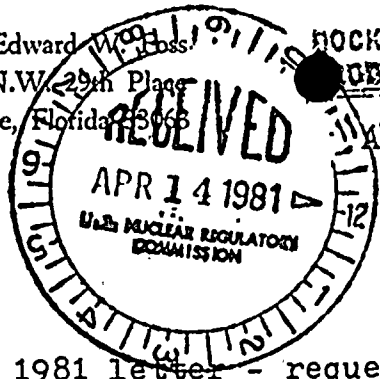


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April 6, 1981

Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie, Chairman:

This is to support the March 3, 1981 letter - request of Florida Power and Light Company, Board Chairman, Mr. Marshall Mc.Donald, to advance the NRC's scheduled completion date of FP&L's St. Lucie #2 plant, of December, 1983. This requested action and resultant earlier "on-line" operation, would greatly reduce the potential of additional increases in electric rates from unneeded fuel oil and interests on an idle facility.

My present basis for this supporting request, is as a consumer of both electric power and petroleum products; but, also, a past 40 years of personal and business associations with Northeast utilities and staffs. These include the New England Power System, the three major State of Maine electric utilities, and for the past 30 years, the N.Y.S. Electric Utilities. These associations were a part of my former activities as a graduate of, and later Instructor of Agr. Engineering at The University of N. H.; Extension Agricultural Engineer at the University of Maine, and Professor at Cornell Universities' N.Y.S. College of Agriculture, Dept. of Agricultural Engineering.

I have been directly involved in both the safety of workers in both industry as well as Agriculture, and also the many advantages in the application of moderate cost electric power, light, heat and controls to Agriculture and the Home. From 1975-80, I initiated and taught a 2 credit, upper level undergraduate course on 'Safety and Accident Prevention', and have been a Consultant in this and related fields for many years.

In Maine, as Ext. Agr. Eng., I became involved with the projected use by farmers of 3 phase line extensions; use was for larger motors in new refrigerated storages (apples) and for the off-season operation of small on-farm mills to produce wooden apple boxes from White Pine. I also chaired a State Labor-Saving Caravan to encourage the application of electricity for improved ventilation of dairy barns, poultry houses, and potato storages, lighting, mechanical equipment, etc.

I fully believe the advent of 'Electricity Rationing', by the Maine Public Service Co. in the Fall and Winter of 1947, was a result of reduced hydro-generating capacity on the Aroostock River, ( a severe drouth which also led to the Presidential Declared "Maine Fire Disaster"). They had to reduce day-time service, and chose to implement it with pleas for Commercial customers to work nights; otherwise: "Two hours on - one hour off"; including all farmers who stored and graded potatoes in 'Track-side' storages (which were all 'off-farm'). I was deluged with phone calls, but no! manufacturer at that time sold a small to moderate size 'stand-by', 'without' the engine! Yet, every farmer had several idle tractors. Shortly thereafter, several companies started and have continued manufacture. Maine PSC, of course, required earliest installation of alternate power, which I followed - 10,000 KW from 4 Nordberg Marine Diesels - a 'relic' today, compared to present equipment.

In New York State, in 1960, I was asked to take on, as a part-time activity, activities of a State Extension Safety Specialist. Shortly afterward, the Kennedy Cuban Missile Crisis led to the Defense Department funding each state Coop. Extension Service for a "Nuclear Safety Specialist".

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The Dean, following some conversation relative to the on-going Safety Activities, asked if I would take this on! I, thus, attended a "Crash" Course at Oak Ridge. This relationship placed me with the N.Y.S Civil Defense Division, and also the N.Y.S.-USDA Emergency Board, tied in with State staff of FmHA, SCS, and ASCS, and Regional (Govt) staff's. There was, of course, much C. D. Preparedness efforts; however, there was interest in a 4H Nuclear Energy Project, so with a lot of help from our Vet. Colleges' Radiation Biology Dept. Staff, a 4H Youth Project was developed with various levels of irradiated seeds, appropriate literature, etc. For a relatively few years, it was active. About 5 years ago, when more concern about reactor safety came along, with help from Rochester Gas & Electric, State Health, State Civil Defense, farm organizations, milk companies, etc. a 'test' exercise was set up to provide the rapid movement of information from RG&E's Nuclear Station to milk plants so that incoming milk from cows on pasture, down-wind, could be routed to cheese plants, so that in the aging process, the rapidly decaying Iodine particles would, in a relatively short time not be dangerous. (I hope my memory is not too far off).

Also, during the 70's, I became increasingly disturbed by some of our 'Radical' Cornell Staff - pro Environment, who were tending to 'warp' the thinking and thus publication of our 56 county Extension Service "Monthly News" papers or magazines. To provide a "truthful" background on the proposed improved 765KV Electric Grid system for NYS, I researched, wrote, illustrated, and secured a great deal of help from the Utilities, for an Agr. Engineering Bulletin No. 417 "Projected Electric Power Transmission Lines for N.Y.S. for the Continuing Need for More Electric Power".

The first 100+ mile link of this system was completed about 3 years ago, to bring low-cost Quebec-Hydro Electric Power from Massina, N.Y. to Marcy (outside of Utica) for use, mostly, by Con. Ed., N.Y.C. for the 7 month Air Conditioning Load. I wrote this last item as an "American Society of Agricultural Engineers" - "Paper" which was delivered in 1979, also using selected slides from the NYS Power Pool Office. The meeting was held at the University of Manitoba; a great deal of help was secured from the N.Y.S. Power Authority.

Sorry for the overly long letter, but I thought it might help lend credence to, not only my interest, but also, my continuing desire to assist both consumers and utilities in securing and wisely using moderate cost electric power.

Sincerely,

*Edward W. Foss*

Edward W. Foss

