

United States Senate

June 12, 1981

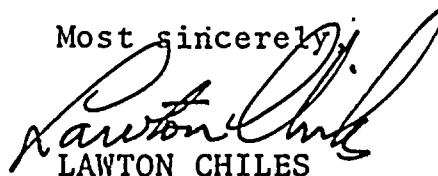
Mr. Carlton Kammerer, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1712 H Street, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Kammerer:

I have recently received the enclosed correspondence regarding a matter involving your agency, and because of my desire to be responsive to all inquiries, I would appreciate having your comments and views.

Your early consideration of this matter will be appreciated and, if convenient, I would like to have your reply in duplicate directed to my State Office, Federal Building, Lakeland, Florida 33801. In your communication, please return the enclosure and make reference to this letter as indicated below.

Most sincerely,

  
LAWTON CHILES

LC/rob  
Enclosure

RE: In reply, please refer to: Mark P. Oncavage

Mark P. Oncavage  
12200 S.W. 110th Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33176

May 26, 1981

Hon. Lawton Chiles  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chiles;

I appreciate your efforts to keep me informed of the problems of nuclear energy in the State of Florida. I was appalled at the letter sent to Chairman Hendrie by Chairman Marshall McDonald of the Florida Power and Light Corporation on March 3, 1981.

In essence, Chairman McDonald asked the NRC to abandon its congressional mandate. The NRC was formed to make nuclear power "safe" for the American people. This mandate and obligation will certainly be forfeited as the NRC neglects its licensing duties.

The heart of the NRC licensing procedure is the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Safety Evaluation Report (SER). Each document must thoroughly and objectively examine the failings and the benefits of the proposed action. Comes now Chairman McDonald asking that the draft SER be written by FP&L and/or its contractors. If this request is granted, the NRC would be truly morally bankrupt.

The licensing proceedings certainly have their failings, but in large part the failings come from the NRC which does not establish and enforce its own criteria for reactor design. Weak components in the reactor design are often categorized as "non safety related" and this allows the design to become acceptable. The case in point is Turkey Point where terminal corrosion in all six steam generators is causing terrible waste, safety, and economic problems.

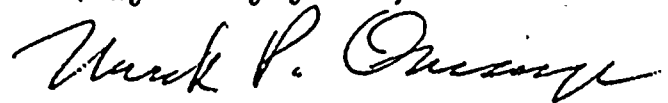
The NRC is guilty of approving poorly studied and tested proposals in an attempt to alleviate the corrosion problem. In reality, the change in water chemistry at Turkey Point made the corrosion far worse than it had been. As a result of this bumbling, the citizens of Florida will receive a new radioactive waste dump in Dade County and a bill for about \$ 730,000,000 in repair costs. Other plants with poorly functioning components are Surry, Palisades, and of course Three Mile Island.

FP&L has not been bashful in asking the NRC to ignore its own rules. In 1980, the NRC was asked to ignore its inspection schedule on the corroded steam generators for four months. The NRC approved, but fortunately legal action taken by some local citizens has stopped this practice.

The licensing of St. Lucie No. 2 must be done carefully and thoroughly. I have strong doubts that the NRC will not effectively study the design problems of Turkey Point but will allow the licensing of St. Lucie No. 2 to proceed without the benefit of this data. If FP&L were to write the draft SER, I am certain that the steam generator corrosion issue would be thoroughly whitewashed.

I urge you and the other members of the Florida delegation to insist on the most careful and complete licensing procedure for St. Lucie No. 2. I would appreciate being kept informed of this situation as it develops.

Very truly yours,



Mark P. Oncavage

cc: Members of the Florida  
Congressional Delegation

**TABLE 1  
SUMMARY OF STEAM GENERATOR ADVERSE EXPERIENCE**

12/29/78

NSSS	PLANT NAME	WASTAGE	U-BEND FRETTING	SECONDARY SIDE CRACKING		DENTING				CONSIDERATION FOR REPLACEMENT OR RETUBING		
				HIGH CYCLE FATIGUE	SCC*	TUBE DENTING	SP HOUR-GLASSING	SP CRACKING OR ISLANDING	LEAKING DENTS		U-BEND CRACK	
CE	MAINE YANKEE MILLSTONE 2 PALISADES ST. LUCIE 1	X			X	X-MINOR X-MODERATE X-MINOR X-MINOR			X			X (Tube Sleeving)
W	HADDAM NECK R.E. GINNA 1 INDIAN POINT 2 INDIAN POINT 3 POINT BEACH 1 POINT BEACH 2 H.B. ROBINSON 2 SAN ONOFRE 1 SURRY 1 SURRY 2 TURKEY POINT 3 TURKEY POINT 4 YANKEE ROWE	X X  X X X X X X X X X	X       X		X X  X X X X X	X-MINOR X-MINOR X-MODERATE X-MINOR X-MODERATE X-MODERATE X-MINOR X-EXTENSIVE X-EXTENSIVE X-EXTENSIVE X-EXTENSIVE		X  X    X X X X		X  X  X (?)  X X X X X		X        X X X X

\*SCC - CAUSTIC STRESS CORROSION CRACKING

- NOTES: 1. TO DATE THERE ARE 33 OPERATING PWR UNITS (NOT INCLUDING INDIAN POINT 1) WHICH UTILIZE RECIRCULATION TYPE OF STEAM GENERATORS.
2. 17 HAVE BEEN FOUND TO HAVE ONE OR MORE FORM(S) OF DEGRADATION, AS SUMMARIZED ABOVE.
3. TROJAN AND D. C. COOK HAVE HAD INDICATIONS OF LIMITED DEGRADATION IN RECENT INSPECTIONS.