

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62761

50-237

50-249

October 4, 1973

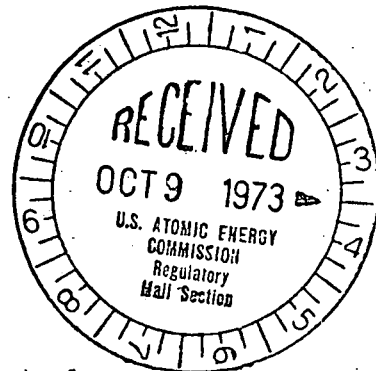
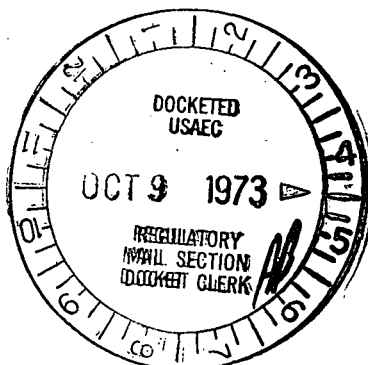
JOYCE C. LASHOF, M.D.

~~ACTING~~ DIRECTOR

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
VERDUN RANDOLPH, M.P.H., CHIEF
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IN REPLY REFER TO: EH/RH

Mr. Gordon L. Chipman
Environmental Project Branch
Directorate of Licensing
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545



Dear Mr. Chipman:

The purpose of this letter is to comment on one aspect of the draft Environmental Statement prepared by the U.S. AEC's Directorate of Licensing as it relates to the Dresden Nuclear Power Station's units II and III, Docket numbers 50-237 and 50-249. This comment will be directed toward paragraph e, Dispersal of Microorganisms which is under section 5.5.3, Cooling Lake and Spray Canal Effects.

We have reviewed the statement concerning the effect of spray canals used to cool water discharged from Commonwealth Edison's Dresden units II and III as it relates to possible dispersion of microorganisms, particularly fecal coliforms, which are normally found in water in the Kankakee River. It is this Department's opinion that the possibility of health hazards from the operation of these spray canals and the possible dispersion of fecal coliform into the air would be at most a minimal health hazard. Our decision is based upon the relative low amount of human fecal coliforms that have been observed in this river and that there have been no reported incidents of disease around sewage treatment plants which use aeration techniques on raw sewage containing much higher concentrations of microorganisms.

It is our further belief that if studies were carried out in any area in which people congregate such as office buildings that one could detect airborne coliforms within the atmosphere of the sample location. At present there is no evidence that this constitutes a public health hazard or is a viable mechanism for the transmission of disease. As a public health agency we feel, however, that it would be prudent to do limited sampling to determine levels of microorganisms in the intake water even though the degree of possible health hazard appears remote.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on this particular topic and if we can be of other assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

Verdun Randolph
Verdun Randolph, Chief

Bureau of Environmental Health

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