

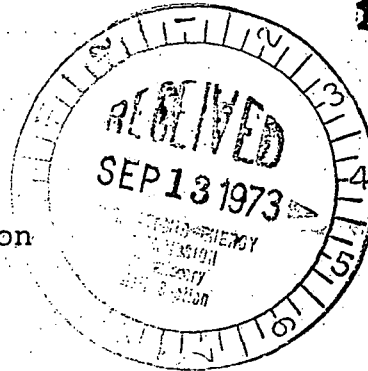


UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

18 SEP 1973

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. L. Manning Muntzing
Director of Regulation
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545



50 - 237

50 - 249

Dear Mr. Muntzing:

The Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the draft environmental statement for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, and our detailed comments are enclosed. Inasmuch as the environmental impacts of nuclear power generation at this site are the result of the combined operation of all three units, we believe that the evaluation and modification of this plant's operation must include Unit 1 as well as Units 2 and 3.

The present gaseous waste treatment system for Unit 1 is not capable of limiting gaseous radioactive discharges to levels that are "as low as practicable." The final statement should discuss in detail the proposed modifications necessary to limit these emissions.

Although we concur with the proposal for closed-cycle operation of the cooling system for Units 2 and 3, a significant thermal discharge to the Illinois River from Unit 1 will continue. We recommend that the applicant consider conversion of Unit 1 from once through to closed-cycle cooling.

In light of our review of this draft statement, and in accordance with EPA procedure, we have classified the project as "ER" (Environmental Reservations), and rated the draft statement as "Category 2" (Insufficient Information). We would be pleased to discuss our comments or classification with you or members of your staff.

Sincerely yours,

Sheldon Meyers
Director
Office of Federal Activities

Enclosures

6926

Regulatory

File Cy.

