

Regulatory

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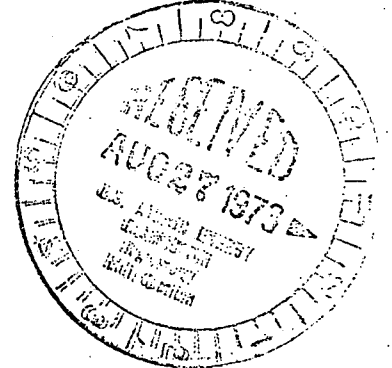


DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

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AUG 23 1973



Mr. Daniel R. Muller
Assistant Director for
Environmental Projects
Directorate of Licensing
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

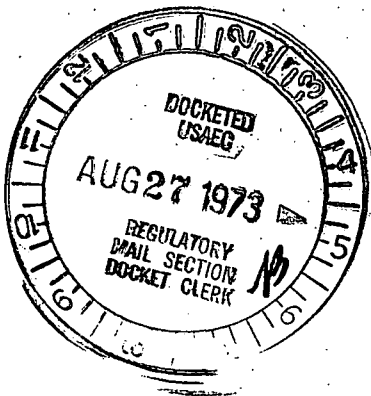
Dear Mr. Muller:

We have had the draft environmental statement for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3, Commonwealth Edison Company of Illinois, reviewed in the relevant agencies of the Department of Agriculture, and comments from Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Research Service, all agencies of the Department, are enclosed.

Sincerely,

FRED H. TSCHIRLEY
Acting Coordinator
Environmental Quality Activities

Enclosures



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RE: DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNITS 2 and 3,
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY, ILLINOIS

We suggest that the Illinois Department of Conservation be contacted for comments, because they would know more about the effect of the project on Illinois' natural resources than the other Illinois departments or the U.S. agencies.

In general, the Forest Service has no objection to the operation of Dresden Units 2 and 3. Effects on vegetation are estimated to be much less than those of coal-fired or oil-fired plants.

The environmental effects of mining and concentrating the uranium ore are not given, and there is no statement on the effect on vegetation of burying radioactive waste at Sheffield, Illinois.

In applying herbicides along transmission lines (pp. 5-35/5-34), care should be taken to avoid excessive amounts over roots of trees adjacent to power lines.

No effect on vegetation is anticipated from ozone that is formed around conductors.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE - USDA
COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT PREPARED
BY THE DIRECTORATE OF LICENSING UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION FOR THE DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION
UNITS 2 AND 3 OF THE COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

Page 4-3 -- Soil survey information is included in the statement and it is noted that the average corn yield from the area inundated by the cooling reservoir is approximately 90 bushel per acre. The statement should also indicate that yields from this land in future years would have been greater and that the economic loss would therefore increase.

Page 5-5 -- The surveillance program should include inspection of the vegetative cover in the vicinity of the embankment.

The Soil Conservation Service, through the Will County Soil and Water Conservation District, is willing to provide technical assistance in matters concerning soils, control of erosion and sedimentation, and establishment and maintenance of vegetation suitable for soil protection, wildlife habitat enhancement and beautification.

Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3
Commonwealth Edison Company, Illinois

The Agricultural Research Service has reviewed this Draft Environmental Statement and finds no significant adverse effects of agricultural importance.

Since these plants are already in operation, some adverse environmental effects have been noted. It is our view that the need for power greatly overrides the minor nature of the environmental effects cited or projected.