

MAY 3 0-1974

Docket Nos. 50-237
and ~~50-249~~

Mr. Byron Lee, Jr.
Assistant to the President
Commonwealth Edison Company
P. O. Box 767
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Dear Mr. Lee:

We have recently received letters (Enclosures 1 and 2) from persons with a scientific interest in fossils, expressing concern regarding continued opportunities to collect and recover the unique fossils of Essex fauna which have been exposed by strip-mining in the area to be flooded by the proposed Braidwood Lake. The scientific value of further collection of these fossils has been confirmed by Dr. Ellis Yochelson of the Smithsonian Institute and by Dr. Eugene Richardson of the Field Museum.

Telephone inquiries to your staff indicated that your company had been contacted in regard to collecting fossils in the strip-mine area before and during the construction of the dike for Braidwood Lake. From the point of view of our reviewing process, the loss of these fossils must be considered in the environmental cost of constructing Braidwood Lake.

A prompt reply informing us of the arrangements which are being made, including an evaluation of the resultant impact from Station construction on these fossils, will allow this subject to be addressed in the Braidwood Final Environmental Statement.

Sincerely,

Original signed by B. J. Youngblood

B. J. Youngblood, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 3
Directorate of Licensing

cc: John W. Rowe, Esq.
Isham, Lincoln & Beale
One First National Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60690

OFFICE ➤						
SURNAME ➤						<i>BJ</i>
DATE ➤						

Byron Lee, Jr.

- 2 -

MAY 30 1974

Mr. & Mrs. Frederic R. Bushnell, Jr.
Box 34
Walnut Hill Farm
Stillman Valley, Illinois 61084

Eugene Brassfield, Esq.
1107 Rockford Trust Bldg.
Rockford, Illinois 61101

Distribution:
✓ Docket File (ENVIRON)(2)
AEC PDR (2)
Local PDR (2)
L Reading
AGiambusso, L:RP
RCDeYoung, L:LWR
DVassallo, L:LWR
JAngelo, L:LWR
MKarman, OGC
SSKirsliis/BJYoungblood, L:EP-3
CLunar, ANL
PGustafson, ANL
RO (3)
HDenton, L:SS
AKenneke, L:SS
GWilliams, L:EP-3
EP-3 Reading File

OFFICE →	SSK L:EP-3	BJY EPA-3			
SURNAME →	SSKirsliis:agc	BJYoungblood			
DATE →	5/24/74	5/20/74			

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

May 7, 1974

Secretary of the Commission,
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

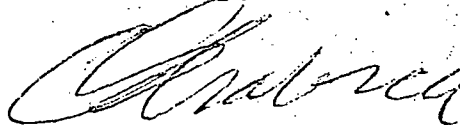
Sir:

I want to call your attention to the problem of the Commonwealth Edison Braidwood Station cooling lake covering the Mazon Creek fossil beds. The Mazon Creek area represents one of the three or four localities in the world where ancient well preserved soft bodied organisms can be found.

My research has been centered primarily on the area of the proposed lake for more than five years. I strongly urge that until the cooling lake is fully operative, fossil collecting be allowed, so that the maximum information can be collected before it is permanently covered.

Thank you for your attention to this problem.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Shabica
Associate Chairman

CWS/kps


5/14/74
1/1/74

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MAY 14 AM 9:33

RECEIVED

DR-7074

Rec'd Off. 00
Date 5/15/74
Time 11A


Augustana
COLLEGE
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS
61201

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

8 May 1974

Secretary of the Commission
U S Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr Secretary:

The environmental reports on the proposed Commonwealth Edison electrical generating plant proposed for Braidwood, Illinois have just come to our attention. One sentence in these reports is a masterpiece of understatement, quote: "Siderite concretions are common but are only occasionally fossiliferous".

Fossil inclusions in the concretions from Peabody Coal Company Pit 11 are very numerous. But it is not their number that is important: many of the fossilized life-forms found here are unique, having been discovered no where else in the world. Dr Eugene Richardson, Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology of the Field Museum in Chicago has stated many times that "the fossils of Pit 11 comprise an assemblage of life forms (now known as the Essex Fauna) that are an important and irreplaceable link in the study of the development of our earth".

New and previously unknown members of this Essex Fauna are under study and being described in the geology departments of our leading universities and museums. And new species are being discovered each year. These specimens are invaluable in the study of earth science by the scientific community. It is very rare for soft-bodied animals to ever be found in fossil form. Pit 11 contains probably the greatest number of differing species of these to be found in a single location anywhere in the world.

We of the Augustana geology staff request that when granting approval for the construction of this new and much needed electrical generating plant that you give strong consideration to the preservation of this "one-of-a-kind" earth resource.

This protection could be obtained in several ways:

- 1 Design the cooling lake to leave as large a portion of Pit 11 as possible open and available for continued collection and recovery of these unique fossils.
- 2 Specify in the construction permit that collecting of these rare specimens shall be permitted by professional and amateur paleontologists during and after the period of construction, subject to the applicable OSHA safeguards required for surface mines and quarries.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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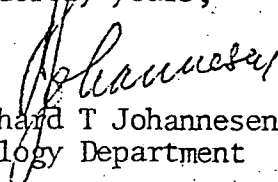
RTJ:RA

cc: Dr R Anderson

5/14/74
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DR-7075

Sincerely yours,


Richard T Johannesen, Consul
Geology Department

Rec'd Off. Dir. of M
Date 5/15/74