

United States Senate

July 18, 1988

Mr. Carlton Kammerer, Director
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Congressional Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Kammerer:

Enclosed is a letter from Joseph Filonowicz, who has concerns regarding spent fuel rods at St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant.

I would appreciate your reviewing this situation and providing me with your comments. Please send your response to my state office: Post Office Box 3050, Tallahassee, Florida 32315, Attention: Becky Liner.

I am grateful for your cooperation and assistance. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,



United States Senator

BG/bsl

Enclosure

8808240184 880815
PDR ADOCK 05000335
PNU



1944

1944

1944

1944

1944

1944

1944

1944

1944

1944

1944

W

TREASURE COAST ENVIRONMENT COALITION

A Four County League of Conservationists

SENATOR BOB GRAHAM

JUN 21 1988

MIAMI DISTRICT OFFICE

Senator Bob Graham
44 W. Flagler
Miami, Fla. 33130

June 18, 1988

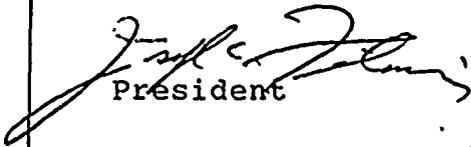
Dear Sir,

I am rewriting you regarding spent fuel rods at the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. I believe this deserves an answer.

I am enclosing a latter letter to Sen. Chiles which further explains my concerns.

I would be willing to meet with you on this matter in Washington or elsewhere after the 4th of July.

Sincerely,



President

PRESIDENT

Joseph C. Filonowicz
286-4180

VICE PRESIDENT

Lloyd Brumfield

SECRETARY

Betty Lou Wells

TREASURER

Erik Martin

DIRECTORS

"Bud" Kleckner
Stella Rosal
Hubert Van Dyke
Blaine Williams

COUNTY COORDINATORS

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Nancy Irvin
567-8234

MARTIN COUNTY

Carol Howell
692-1617

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Rosa Durando
965-2420

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Tom Murphy
229-3732

ENVIRONMENTAL

ATTORNEYS

MARTIN COUNTY

W.E. "Ted" Guy

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Terrell Arline

TREASURE COAST ENVIRONMENT COALITION
A Four County League of Conservationists

June 18, 1988

Senator Lawton Chiles
Federal Building
Lakeland, Florida 33801

Subject: Nuclear Waste Storage at FP&L St. Lucie
Nuclear Power Plant

Dear Sir:

We have received no response from you as promised in your letter of May 9, 1988 regarding the subject matter.

Mr. Rich won a partial victory in his first hearing before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that accepted 7 of his 16 contentions that storage of spent nuclear rods were unsafe as related in the enclosed news article.

But matters have grown worse for Mr. Rich. Batteries of Washington Lawyers, paid for by FP&L customers, are inundating him with thousands of pages of legalese laden documents in an obvious attempt to wear Mr. Rich down.

Here is a very responsible American citizen trying to protect millions of Florida residents from possible radiation injury who is without support, funds, knowledge of law being over-run by powerful private and public agencies following tons of incomprehensible bureaucratic regulatory procedures.

The Constitution and the people's elected representatives are designed to protect the little guy against this sort of abuse. Please see what you can do to protect and aid this courageous citizen. Now!

The Atomic Age of present technology is coming to a close. Both the Hanford, Washington and Savannah River, S.C. complexes that produce A-Bomb and reactor rods are obsolete, overworked and absolutely environmentally damaged beyond repair. For over 40 years Congress has promised to find a technology to take care of spent fuel rods. It hasn't.

Also enclosed is a letter to Mr. Hill of the President's Council of Environmental Quality who hasn't bothered to answer my very important letter to him on this issue. Where is the government's sensibilities toward the public? And finally, I am sending a copy of this letter to Senator Graham who also did not bother to respond. I thank you for your response and look forward to another.

Sincerely,


55 East Ocean Boulevard, Stuart, Florida 34995

JOSEPH C. FILONOWICZ
3475 SW Forest Hills Ct.
Palm City, Florida 34990
Tel. 286-4180

PRESIDENT

Joseph C. Filonowicz
286-4180

VICE PRESIDENT

Lloyd Brumfield

SECRETARY

Betty Lou Wells

TREASURER

Erik Martin

DIRECTORS

"Bud" Kleckner
Stella Rosal
Hubert Van Dyke
Blaine Williams

COUNTY COORDINATORS

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Nancy Irvin
567-8234

MARTIN COUNTY

Carol Howell
692-1617

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Rosa Durando
965-2420

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Tom Murphy
229-3732

ENVIRONMENTAL
ATTORNEYS

MARTIN COUNTY

W.E. "Ted" Guy

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Terrell Arline



TREASURE COAST ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

A Four County League of Conservationists

April 1, 1988

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Joseph C. Flonowicz

VICE PRESIDENT

Lloyd Brumfield

SECRETARY

Betty Lou Wells

TREASURER

Erla Martin

Mr. B. Paul Cotter, Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Cotter:

This Coalition requests that this letter be made a part of the hearing proceedings conducted March 29, 1988 pertaining to the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant on Hutchinson Island in Florida. We fully support Mr. Campbell Rich's contentions and concerns over the "routine" approval of the expansion of radio-active fuel storage facilities at the Plant by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Long term storage of large quantities of this extremely hazardous material at this site on a barrier beach island is an unacceptable threat to public health and safety and to our local environment. Further, we strongly contend that the NRC legal opinion that a full-fledged environmental impact statement is not required is not consistent with the National Environment Policy Act and the President's Council on Environmental Quality's guidelines. We wish to cite one of many factors which support our contention.

The original E.I.S. and design criteria for the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant assumed an 18 foot storm surge would occur as a result of a 1000 year frequency hurricane. This engineering assumption is no longer valid. World-wide ocean levels are rising at an increasing rate according to measurements by such scientific organizations as N.O.A.A. and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The last major hurricane hit this area in 1949 and caused an estimated storm surge near the plant site of 13 +/- feet m.s.l. Since 1949 the ocean level has risen 8 to 12 inches. Many U.S. scientists now predict that the world-wide ocean levels will continue to rise as a result of the melting of the Anartic ice shelves due to the overall warming of the Earth's climate. Within 50 to 100 years the ocean levels will rise according to conservative predictions somewhere between 2-4 feet. Less conservative estimates predict 6-8 feet. Obviously, such an increase in ocean levels would proportionately increase the storm surge elevation at the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant site. The plant site, which was at an elevation of 23 feet above mean sea level at construction will in the future become a small island and be subject to wave damage and flooding when a 1000 year frequency hurricane occurs. These facts alone were sufficient reason to mandate the preparation of an EIS before any decision was made

DIRECTORS

"Bud" Kleckner

Stella Rossel

Hubert Van Dyke

Blaine Williams

DIRECTORS AND COUNTY COORDINATORS

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Nancy Irvin

MARTIN COUNTY

Carol Howell

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Rosa Durando

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL ATTORNEYS

MARTIN COUNTY

W.E. "Ted" Guy

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Terrell Arline

~~880-6300254~~
288

(B. Paul Cotter 2)

by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and staff. In addition; the approved safety and design criteria must be revised to reflect the new flooding and wave damage potential during a major hurricane.

This Coalition wishes to make one additional request: The issue of long term storage of spent fuel rods on site is not unique to the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. It is endemic to nuclear plants in the U.S.A. The original design and safety standards, on which the approval of construction of every power plant was based, was predicated on the assumption that on site emergency fuel rod and spent rod storage would be short term and justified for two reasons:

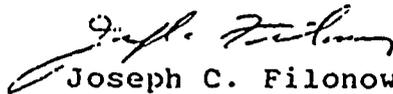
1. A plant shutdown for repair or in an emergency requiring removal of the fuel rods from the core; and
2. Temporary storage of spent fuel rods during a cooling down period prior to shipment to a reprocessing plant or central hazardous waste storage facility.

As you well know, the Congress, The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the nuclear power industry through their national lobby organization (The Atomic Industrial Forum and the National Association of Electric Companies) have failed in their promise and responsibility to the American People; to build the reprocessing and nuclear waste storage facilities. This crucial decision has been allowed to become a political football.

The time is long overdue for the President and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to set a firm date for terminating long term storage of hazardous wastes on nuclear power plant sites. This would of course pose the threat of closing down all the nuclear plants in the nation and should provide the necessary political and economic incentives to get the long overdue legislation and appropriations through the Congress. Clearly, Florida Power and Light is not the culprit here.

We contend that no further study is justified or warranted; public health and safety dictate that a nationwide cutoff deadline be established immediately.

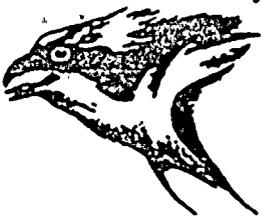
Sincerely,



Joseph C. Filonowicz, President

c.c
Gov. Bob Martinez
Senator Lawton Chiles
Senator Bob Graham
Cong. Tom Lewis
St. Lucie County Commission
Martin County Commission
Council on Environmental Quality

JOSEPH C. FILONOWICZ
3475 SW Forest Hills Ct.
Palm City, Florida 34990
Tel. 286-4180



TREASURE COAST ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION
A Four County League of Conservationists

April 26, 1988

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Joseph C. Filonowicz
VICE PRESIDENT
Lloyd Brumfield
SECRETARY
Betty Lou Wells
TREASURER
Eric Martin

DIRECTORS

"Bud" Klockner
 Stella Roehl
 Hubert Van Dyke
 Elaine Williams

**DIRECTORS AND
 COUNTY COORDINATORS**

SEBASTIAN RIVER COUNTY
Nancy Irvin
MARTIN COUNTY
Carol Howell
PALM BEACH COUNTY
Rose Durando
ST. LUCIE COUNTY
Tom Murphy

**ENVIRONMENTAL
 ATTORNEYS**

MARTIN COUNTY
W.E. "Ted" Guy
PALM BEACH COUNTY
Terrell Arline

Mr. A. Alan Hill, Chairman
 Council on Environmental Quality
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
 Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Chairman Hill,

We request that the CEQ over rule the use of an Environmental Assessment (EA) in place of of a full blown Environmental Impact Statement in the construction of the increased spent fuel rod storage facility at the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. The enclosed letter spells out one very important environmental factor which was not considered in the EA. There are a number of other deficiencies including inadequate public notice.

Increasing the on site storage capacity of the extremely hazardous radio-active wastes from the original 390,000 lbs. to over 2.2 million pounds constitutes a major increase in the threat to the public health and safety. The change in storage time from short term to long term (at least till 1998) also greatly increases the threat to the environment. Because the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant is located on a barrier beach island the threat of dire consequences is further increased.

We request that the CEQ overrule NRC and the ASLB and order the preparation of a full EIS.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Filonowicz
 President

JOSEPH C. FILONOWICZ
 3475 SW Forest Hills Ct.
 Palm City, Florida 34990
 Tel. 286-4180

MARTIN CO

Prove atomic waste storage is safe,

By JIM REEDER

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

HUTCHINSON ISLAND — Florida Power & Light Co. will have to back up its claim that doubling the spent-fuel storage capacity at the St. Lucie I nuclear power unit presents no hazard to the general public, the federal Atomic Safety & Licensing Board ruled Thursday.

The decision is a partial victory for Port Salerno resident Campbell Rich, but it allows FPL to continue installing the new storage racks Rich fears will result in Hutchinson Island becoming a permanent disposal site for high-level radioactive

wastes.

The racks will allow FPL to place 1,706 spent-fuel assemblies in a space originally planned to hold 728. Used fuel removed from the plant every 18 months must be stored on site because the federal government has not provided a permanent storage facility for high-level radioactive wastes.

Rich could not be reached for comment Thursday but said at a March 29 hearing he was prepared to present witnesses to back his claims that FPL hasn't adequately considered all of the problems associated with storing more spent-fuel rods at the

plant.

An FPL spokesman said company officials had expected the board to request more information and remained confident the challenge will be dismissed.

"The board wants to see the data that supports our position things will be safe at the plant," FPL spokeswoman Kathy Scott said. "We will provide the additional data and will ask that the claim be dismissed.

"Similar contentions were made about our Turkey Point plant in a hearing last September and we've just been notified they've been dismissed after we supplied additional data," she said. "We feel it's a

DUNTY

federal board tells FPL

similar situation here."

Rich listed 16 issues he believes should be considered further by federal officials and the licensing board said Thursday it wants more information from both sides on seven of those issues.

Among them is Rich's primary concern that boroflex, the plastic material used to build the new storage racks, could shrink and crack. Gaps in the racks could permit a chain reaction to start occurring in the radioactive material, critics of boroflex say.

The other issues for further consideration deal with what would happen if a fuel

assembly or other heavy object were dropped into the spent-fuel pit, whether the pit's liner will be able to stand up to higher temperatures and heavier loads created by increased storage and whether cooling systems could fail.

Scott said FPL expects Rich's claim to be dismissed without further public hearings after the company presents additional data.

Three judges from the Atomic Safety & Licensing Board met at the Sheraton Beach Hotel on Hutchinson Island March 29 to hear arguments by FPL and Rich.

