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February 8 1999

REC'D BY SECY  
FEB 99 11: 19  
Chairman Shirley A Jackson  
Commissioner Nils J. Diaz  
Commissioner Greta J. Dicus  
Commissioner Edward McGaffin, Jr.  
Commissioner Jeffery S. Merrifield  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington DC 20555-0001

Gentlefolk,

You have before you a petition from Carolina Power & Light (1) to allow them to transport, for long term storage, spent fuel elements from their other plants to their Harris Plant. That plant lies proximate to my home, to Raleigh, to Durham, to Chapel Hill and to the Research Triangle. As you consider this petition we who live here would appreciate it if you would consider the following logic.

> There is a possibility, albeit small, that spent fuel can cause an event that would be devastating to its neighbors. We thus face the situation Dr. Edward Teller characterized as follows, in talking about siting of nuclear plants (Yes, *that* Dr. Teller.):

*The probability that something will go seriously wrong is real. But the damage that would be caused is infinite. So you have the peculiar problem of multiplying zero times infinity. (2)*

> The greater the concentration of nuclear material the greater the risk of an untoward occurrence and the greater its damage potential. (3)

> In this country one has a right to expect a benefit comensurate with whatever risk he/she is asked to assume.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
RESEARCH REPORT

Author: [Name]

Date: [Date]

Subject: [Subject]

Summary

The present work is concerned with the study of the reaction of [Chemical] with [Chemical] in the presence of [Chemical]. The reaction was studied at various temperatures and concentrations. The results show that the reaction is first order with respect to [Chemical] and second order with respect to [Chemical]. The activation energy of the reaction is [Value] kcal/mole.

References

1. [Reference 1]  
2. [Reference 2]  
3. [Reference 3]

4. [Reference 4]  
5. [Reference 5]

6. [Reference 6]  
7. [Reference 7]

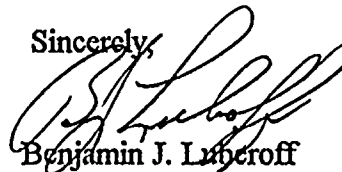
8. [Reference 8]  
9. [Reference 9]

10. [Reference 10]  
11. [Reference 11]

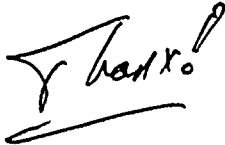
Our Commissioners, here in Chatham County, have asked you to delay your decision beyond the February 12 deadline so that they can evaluate the opinion of consultants they hired to assist them in assessing the risk benefit/equation. Such a delay would help all of us to appreciate the impact of alternate solutions to the problem before us. However the logic above is all any fair minded person needs to arrive at the conclusion that the fuel rods rightfully belong just where they are. The beneficiaries of a risk are the ones who, fairly, should assume that risk. It's that simple!

Since we, living near Harris, see no such benefit from assuming the risks the petition before you places on us, we respectfully request that you deny that petition irrevocably.

Sincerely,



Benjamin J. Luberoff



Y. Harris!

Notes:

1. Application of December 23 1998 by CP&L: *Fed. Reg.* Jan. 13 1999, Vol. 64, No. 8
2. CBS-TV August 10 1970 as cited by B. J. Luberoff, Editor, *CHEMTECH* May 1973, 257
3. Neither probabilities of untoward occurrences nor the degree of their devastating effects are linearly related to concentration.

cc: Senator Jesse Helms  
Senator John Edwards  
Representative David Price  
Governor James Hunt  
Senator Ellie Kinnaird  
Senator Howard Lee  
Representative Joe Hackney  
Chairman Rick Givens  
Dr. David A. Lochbaum

