

United States Senate

August 31, 1976

Rel Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Coleman
35 K Drive
Pennsville, New Jersey 08070

Respectfully referred to

Congressional Liaison
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555.....

for such consideration as the communication
herewith submitted may warrant, and for a report
thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of
inclosure.

By direction of

CPC:vj

Clifford P. Case

U. S. S.

DATE 9/9/76
TIME 9:15

35 "H" Drive
Pennsville, J. 08070

August 24, 1976

Senate Case

FUELING OF SALEM 1 NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

Atlantic City Press - "FIREMEN SAY THEY WON'T SIGN"

Salem 1 Nuclear Generating Plant is loading NO.!
We find this incredible in light of the fact that
Lower Alloway Creek firemen have not been trained
to contend with whatever might happen at the loca-
tion of the plant.

No evacuation exercise has ever been held in Salem
County for the General public. At this point we
must wonder what we are supposed to do if there is
an incident at the Nuclear Plant. After repeated
questions at local and county meetings, we have
found a reluctance on the part of officials to even
discuss the subject. Can it be there is something
they don't want us to know about or is it a matter
they don't know themselves what's going on.

We certainly question the credibility of any
industry that concerns itself with SAFETY ONLY when
a license to operate depends on it. For years PSE&G
has known Lower Alloway Creek Firemen must be train-
ed - yet they wait until they need the signature of
the Firechief (and even then expect him to sign when
the men have not had training) to get the licenses to
operate and rush down there and expect him to sign.

The credibility of officials of Lower Alloway Creek
should be questioned also when the mayor of this town
signs and commits VOLUNTEERS in his own town to
something they are not equipped to do. The worst
part being the Firechief never knew what the mayor
signed. How can they commit this VOLUNTEER group
without their authorization?

IF SOMETHING HAPPENS DOWN THERE TODAY WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Very truly yours,

Alfred C. Coleman Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred C. Coleman, Jr.

P.S. We have to wonder how many other documents were
signed for the nuclear industry under similar
unorthodox circumstances.

Firemen Say They Won't Fight

By DAVID LANDMANN
Press Staff Writer

HANCOCKS BRIDGE — Chief Earl Pancoast and the men who make up his Lower Alloways Creek Township fire company have vowed not to respond to alarms inside the Public Service Electric and Gas Company's (PSE&G) Salem I nuclear generating plant near here.

They will stand firm until they get the special training Pancoast feels is necessary to protect his men as well as Salem I — training that Pancoast says he has had to fight for, but which now appears to be forthcoming.

"We're fooling around with a nuclear plant here," Pancoast told The Press

Monday afternoon. "And when you're fooling around with a nuclear plant, you're fooling around with something entirely different than what we're used to around here."

Pancoast said he has been concerned about the responsibility of having to provide fire protection for Salem I and has tried to get his concerns across to PSE&G officials and to the township committee.

"We're just a rural fire company. We're used to going out and knocking down housefires and barnfires. I've tried to tell them...our committee and Public Service...that we need some extra training when it comes to fighting a

fire in a nuclear generator," Pancoast said the committee listened to his pleas for training and that PSE&G did too.

"But they never did anything about my requests. They went right down to the deadline and didn't do anything," he said.

The deadline Pancoast spoke of was PSE&G's last-minute, successful attempt to win permits to fuel Salem I and to run subsequent tests of its reactor.

The township signed the permit, in effect, committing Pancoast's fire department to protection of the generating station.

That made Pancoast mad. "They went ahead and signed the permit without

even talking with me...and Public Service was perfectly happy for them to go ahead and sign it.

"I mean," he continued, "we haven't even been able to get in there (inside Salem I) to hold a drill. PSE&G was always too busy. Of course, when the permit needed signing, nobody was too busy."

It wasn't until last Friday's meeting of the committee that he made some headway.

"I was forced to drag about half of the fire company in there with me to let them know we took a vote not to respond to any fires inside any of the buildings there on the island (Artifi-

cial Island — the site of Salem I)," he said.

The upshot of what Pancoast termed his "drastic action" was an agreement on the part of PSE&G's site manager Herb Heller to provide the Lower Alloways Creek firemen with the training Pancoast requested.

The township committee was moved, too, to agree to meet with Pancoast Wednesday to discuss his department's needs.

"I believe we'll get the training we need now. I'm just sorry nobody saw fit to consult with us before things got this far. I didn't really want to raise all this fuss," Pancoast said.

Since Friday, Pancoast has become something of a figurehead to local groups opposed to the operation of Salem I.

It is a position Pancoast says he doesn't particularly enjoy.

"People think I'm trying to stop the plant. Hell, I couldn't stop this plant in a million years even if I wanted to.

"No," he said, "that's not my idea. It was only my idea to make things safe for my firefighters."