

November 29, 1979

POOR ORIGINAL

Secretary of the Commission
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555



Dear Commissioner;

I am petitioning for leave to intervene in the generic rule-making hearing on Storage and Disposal of Nuclear Waste.

I should be allowed to intervene for two very good reasons. First, I live in Burdickville, Michigan, (Maple City is the Post Office for my rural route box), which is within a fifty mile radius of the Big Rock Point Nuclear Power Reactor, operated by Consumers Power Company of Michigan. As you know, this plant has filed for a license amendment to allow it to increase the capacity of its spent fuel rod storage pool. Pursuant to the decision of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in State of Minnesota v. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 602 F.2d 412 (D.C. Cir., 1979), the spent fuel expansion hearing should await the finding of the generic hearing. Thus, the outcome of this rule-making hearing will directly affect whether more spent fuel rod assemblies will be stored in my area or not.

Secondly, I am a full participant in the license hearing on Big Rock's proposed spent fuel pool expansion, and for this reason am even more vitally interested in this proceeding.

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My concern over long-term storage of nuclear wastes centers on these issues:

- the extreme toxicity and long half life of many nuclear isotopes found in nuclear wastes, and the tendency for many of these to concentrate in the food-chain.
- the oft-proposed method of storing wastes in geologic salt beds is questionable.
See the Sierra Club fact sheet, "Salt Will Not Work".
- the fact is that it is unlikely that the U.S. government will outlast these toxic wastes. Neither the Roman Empire nor the Dynasties of China lasted longer than the lives of such wastes. Thus a method must be devised to insure the safety of these elements without maintenance or guarding forever.
- the question of earthquakes in the distant future must be taken into account.
- the materials must be made safe from intentional disturbance from, say, terrorists or lunatics.
- radioactive waste treatment facilities have been notoriously unsafe, especially the Nuclear Fuels Services plant in West Valley, New York, and the leaking storage pits at the Hanford, Washington plant.
- transportation to and from treatment facilities is not presently safe.
- no safe, proven method now exists for long term

storage.

-the discontinuance of nuclear power as a source for electrical energy would not create undue hardships. We presently have generating capacity equal or exceeding our need for energy without nuclear power, and many very promising alternatives exist, such as solar, geothermic, tidal, and wind power.

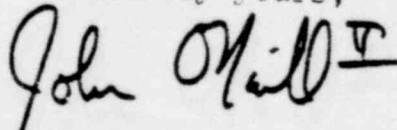
For these reasons I respectfully request to be allowed to be a full participant in this generic rule-making hearing.

While I realize that this petition is three days late; I feel that I should be allowed to fully participate for the following reasons:

I was unable to file on time because I recieved the federal notice only recently, I was very involved in the Big Rock hearing, and my family duties over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend required a trip to Detroit from November 21 to November 26, the filing deadline.

My participating in the hearing will not delay the procedure. I am willing to have my contentions consolidated with others that are similar, and am willing to consolidate as a petitioner with other individuals or groups with similar contentions. Also, my petition will likely reach the NRC offices before other contentions actually mailed before the deadline, due to the nature of the U.S. Mails.

Faithfully yours,



John O'Neill II

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Additional contentions:

- since the Love Canal incident and the accident at Three Mile Island unit 2, local resistance to the establishment of toxic waste facilities has intensified geometrically. Such resistance, and the growing state and nation-wide power of such groups, the likelihood of establishing any new storage facility in the United States is highly questionable.
- even low levels of radioactive release are highly dangerous to human health, causing cancers, and respiratory fatalities in infants and the elderly. These dangers have been scientifically documented by such noted scientists as former A.E.C. scientist John Gofman, Ernest J. Sternglass, and Dr. Helen Caldicott.

Clarification:

I live in Burdickville, Michigan, and ALSC work in the restaurant owned by my family, the Woodcock Restaurant, which is also in the village of Burdickville. This increases my interest in the matter.

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