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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

NOV 20 1979

The Honorable Bill Gradison
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gradison:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 1979 addressed to Mr. John Stolz, regarding the concern from your constituent, Dr. George W. Geisen. Your letter enclosed Dr. Geisen's letter to you dated September 13, 1979, where he expressed concern over the possibility of damage to the Zimmer Nuclear Power Plant from proposed limestone mining operations along the Kentucky shore of the Ohio River close to the Zimmer Plant.

During our safety review of the Zimmer Plant, the staff considered quarry operations at the Black River Mining Company and the Pickney Brewer Company located two and two and one half miles, respectively, from the reactor site (Safety Evaluation Report related to operation of Wm. H. Zimmer Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1 - NUREG-0528 - Section 2.2, Page 2-5). Both of these operations use explosives. The staff evaluated the use of explosives at distances greater than two miles from the Zimmer site and concluded that this will not affect plant safety. The proposed limestone mines in the Mentor-California, Kentucky area are about three to five miles from the Zimmer site.

Although it does not appear that the proposed operations will present a safety problem at the Zimmer site, we plan to verify the effect of these operations on the Zimmer plant.

I hope this information satisfies your and Dr. Geisen's concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by R. G. Smith
Lee V. Gossick
Executive Director for Operations

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Mr. John Stoltz
Branch Chief
Division of Project Management
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

OCT 16 1979

Dear Mr. Stoltz:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter and attachments from a constituent of mine, Dr. George W. Geisen, of the University of Cincinnati.

As you know from an October 9 conversation with one of my assistants, Dan Hull, Dr. Geisen is very concerned about the proximity of the Zimmer Nuclear Power Plant to blasting activity in proposed limestone mining operations on the Kentucky shore. Dr. Geisen and I both would appreciate any comments or information you may have concerning this situation.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Bill Gradison
Representative in Congress

BG/ha
Enclosure

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