

LAKE MICHIGAN FEDERATION

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Citizen Action to Protect a Great Lake

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May 20, 1979

WTR

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

Operating Reactors Status Report, NUREG-0020, Vol. 3, No. 1, January 1979, indicates under "Status of Spent Fuel Storage Capability" that Big Rock Point is presently authorized to store 120 spent fuel assemblies.

Michael J. Lawrence, Director, Division of Transportation and Fuel Storage, U.S. Department of Energy wrote to me on May 14, 1979: "According to the data which DOE has from Consumers Power Company, the Big Rock reactor has already expanded its spent fuel basin several times to store more fuel than originally planned. The utility is nearing completion of a reracking activity which would permit storage of 365 fuel assemblies. This means the reactor would lose the ability to discharge the full core around 1988 and to discharge for annual fuel loading in about 1992."

I would very much appreciate your clarifying this matter at your earliest possible convenience.

Furthermore, would you please tell me if the dates listed under the column "Will Fill Present Authorized Capacity" in the above-cited document issued by the NRC indicates the dates by which there will no longer be adequate space for assemblies to be discharged from the reactor during refueling OR if by these dates there will be only enough spaces for storage of the full nuclear core if a situation so warrants.

Sincerely,

Jame Schaefer

Jame Schaefer, Chairman
Radioactive Waste Management
Study Committee
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