

July 15, 1979

Dr. Joseph Hendrie, Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

Before decontamination of Dresden I gets underway in August, I feel that certain questions need to be given great consideration. In the past, the public has generally allowed themselves to remain uninformed, and misled by the propaganda of the utility companies, presumably with the approval of the NRC. I think that the NRC has failed to perform a very important task-- that of presenting unbiased facts to the general public and doing its utmost to alert the population to the risks involved. Instead, the NRC has ignored what it probably thought was too much trouble to deal with; i.e., safety problems, ECCS' renowned failures, transportation of nuclear materials, health effects, etc. In a word, I feel the NRC is "inadequate".

So now we are faced with "decontamination"-- an experimental and expensive procedure. My questions are as follows:

- 1) What is the substance that is to be used to flush the piping at Dresden I?
- 2) How dangerous is it should an accident occur (such as a pipe welding being unable to withstand its corrosive properties)?
- 3) Where will this solution containing the radioactive crud go, once it has gone through the pipes?
- 4) How many people will be directly involved in this operation and how hazardous will it be for them?
- 5) What will happen to the wastes-- how will they be disposed of?
- 6) How much does this operation cost? Who pays the bill? Is it worth it, compared to the amount of electricity generated by Dresden I?
- 7) How will the procedure affect the environment? Will it add to the ponderous amount of radiation already in the bio-system? Will it heat up the river water excessively? Will it release too much heat into the atmosphere?

I urge the NRC to demand an environmental impact statement from the utility before proceeding with the decontamination process. I have little or no faith in the accountability of the utilities and cannot expect much support from the NRC, judging from its past performances.

It wasn't until recently that I became aware of the unbelievable trespasses on the public's safety, health, and future brought about by the uncontrolled growth of the nuclear industry. Every step along the way-- from the uranium mining to the storage of its wastes--is fraught with uncertainties, lack of sufficient safeguards and disregard for the preservation and well-being of the environment.

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In the upcoming months, I hope the NRC will create stringent guidelines for the industry, and will carefully consider all factors before granting licenses to any more nuclear facilities in the U.S. I would appreciate it if you can send me any material on what the NRC is currently doing, reports it has done, etc. I feel it is my duty as a responsible citizen to become better informed as to the activities of an agency such as the NRC. Your policies have an effect on my life and well-being and I'd like to know what those policies are.

Thank you,

Sincerely,  
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