

Rt. #1, Box 279
St. Anne, IL 60964
July 12, 1979

Dear NRC:

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Sometime in August, 85,000 gallons of a Dow mystery chemical will be flushed through the five miles ~~through~~ ~~the five miles~~ of piping of the Dresden 1 nuclear reactor near Morris. The process, called "decontamination," is a procedure devised to remove more than a half ton of highly radioactive metal oxides known as "crud". Before this process occurs I believe the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should answer some very important questions.

Will the people participating in the Dresden decontamination experiment suffer from exposure to the combination of the solvent and the radioactive materials that will be suspended in the solvent? Since this is the first time this process is taking place it would seem practical to attempt to answer this question before work proceeds.

Will the radioactive wastes migrate faster than normal once the Dow chemical solvent reacts with the wastes? An article published in Science (30 June 1978) which shows that materials treated this way do move more rapidly. Will any of this waste remain on site, possibly coming in contact with the soil and then rapidly being leached into the ground water?

Will the operation of Dresden 1 become more hazardous in the future due to the process? According to one study, stainless steel, which is used in the reactor vessel, is somewhat porous. After cleaning, steel is found to deteriorate. What impact will this have on the operation and safety of the plant?

I believe that we who live so close to Dresden should require an environmental impact statement be completed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission before any work begins.

Sincerely,

Marty Westerman

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