



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

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The Honorable Don Albosta  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Albosta:

I am pleased to respond to your letter of October 23, 1979 which requests a copy of the NRC's reply to your constituent, Mr. Wendell H. Marshall concerning the sinking of the Diesel Generator Building and cracks in this and other buildings at the site for the Midland Plant, Units 1 & 2.

Mr. H. Denton's reply of November 8, 1979 is enclosed. I am also enclosing an earlier reply of July 5, 1979 to a related concern expressed by Mr. Marshall's telegram of June 9, 1979. From these replies, you will note that the backfill settlement and its effects are currently under review by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the Office of Inspection and Enforcement. We have also acquired the additional review assistance of the U. S. Corps of Engineers in Detroit, Michigan, and of the Energy Technology Engineering Center in Canoga Park, California. The review is currently the subject of a 10 CFR 50.54(f) request and decisions relative to enforcement action as may be appropriate to this case are nearing completion. This matter has also been proposed and accepted as an issue for the hearing for operating licenses on Midland Plant, Units 1 & 2. Mr. Marshall has been admitted as a hearing intervenor on the basis of this and other issues. For your information, the State of Michigan will also be participating in this hearing. The start date for the hearing has not yet been established.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY R. G. SMITH

Lee V. Gossick  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:

1. Letter to W. H. Marshall  
dated July 5, 1979
2. Letter to W. H. Marshall  
dated November 8, 1979

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**DON ALBOSTA**  
10TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
October 23, 1979

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

On September 12, 1979 I received a copy of a letter from Mr. Wendell H. Marshall, a constituent of mine. In this letter he lists 15 questions pertaining to the sinking of the diesel building and serious cracks in other buildings at the nuclear plant under construction in Midland, Michigan. Mr. Marshall may not have noted on his original letter to you that I received a copy of that letter. However, I would appreciate a copy of any letter you may have sent him in response and an up to date summary of the situation to which he referred. A copy of his letter is enclosed.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Best wishes,

Don Albosta  
Member of Congress

DA/Fb  
Enclosure  
cc. Wendell H. Marshall

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Midland, MI Route 10  
September 4, 1979

*Copy to Congressman Don. Alberta* - SEP 12 1979

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

Recent publicity concerning the sinking of the Diesel Building and serious cracks in other buildings at the nuclear plant being built at Midland, MI, indicate future troubles. In view of this, what is NRC doing to properly safeguard the public health and safety from the following:

1. Sinking buildings?
2. Cracks in other buildings which implies sinking?
3. Improper support to structures, as example, the service water intake building with foundations on backfill?
4. Cracked walls in auxiliary building which contain important safety equipment?
5. Why is it necessary to install a permanent de-watering system?
6. Is a permanent de-watering system installed at all other nuclear power plants?
7. Has the large 880 acre artificial cooling pond caused excessive water which contributes to the building settlement thus causing the cracks?
8. Why is it now necessary to build caissons under the auxiliary building? Are these caissons now being built under other buildings?
9. Are the caissons necessary; if so, why were they not built before the auxiliary building was constructed (I believe the foundations are put down before any building is erected)?
10. Consumer's Power Company states that all problems can be corrected - but why did the problems occur in the first place?
11. Were these problems caused because of inadequate engineering? Were they caused because of inadequate quality assurance program?
12. What is being done to prevent further sinking of the building at this nuclear power plant?
13. How can the public be assured that proper geological studies were performed to determine ground conditions before construction was started?
14. What studies, if any, were carried out to insure the non-settlement of buildings due to ground water seepage from the 880 acre artificial pond.
15. How was the pond sealed to prevent water seepage into the building area?

At meetings held on the 23rd of February, 1979, and March 5, 1979, at NRC Region 3 Office in Glen Ellyn, IL, the Diesel Engine Building settlement was discussed. At these meetings what was done about the cracking, de-watering, other building settlements, and caissons problems?

*Please acknowledge receipt  
Chas. G. Westman  
Marked  
J.P. Marshall*

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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director  
September 4, 1979  
Page Two

Since the AEC, your predecessor agency, violated the siting regulations by allowing the construction of the nuclear plant within the confines of Midland, MI, what action is being taken by NRC to insure that this plant will not continue sinking which would damage the buildings? And, finally, what assurance does the public have that other buildings are not in jeopardy?

I await your answers to the questions posed.

Yours very truly,

Wendell H. Marshall  
Mapleton Intervenors

WHM/jy

cc: Senator Carl Levin  
Senator Donald Riegle, Jr.

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