

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 19, 1979

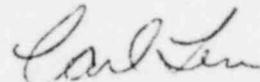
Congressional Liaison  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H. Street, N.W.  
Room 1159  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

On September 4, Mr. Wendell H. Marshall of Midland Michigan sent a letter concerning the sinking of the Diesel Building and serious cracks in other buildings at the nuclear plant being built at Midland Michigan, without receiving a reply. He has sent me a copy of his letter which I am forwarding to you for your prompt attention. I would also appreciate a copy of your reply to Mr. Marshall for my files.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
Carl Levin

CL/km

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Midland, MI Route 10  
September 4, 1979

*Copy*

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?

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Harold R. Denton, Director  
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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*  
Wendell H. Marshall  
Mapleton Intervenors

WHM/jy

cc: Senator Carl Levin  
Senator Donald Riegle, Jr.

Wendell H. Marshall  
Mapleton Intervenors  
RFD #10  
Midland, Michigan 48640

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