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An Open Letter to the People of Illinois

We, the Concerned Citizens of Lake County, in the realization that the Zion Nuclear Reactor Plant poses a clear and present danger to the people of this area, make the following requests of our utility company, Commonwealth Edison: (1) that Commonwealth Edison stop all proceedings to increase the storage of spent fuel at Zion; (2) that the Zion Nuclear Reactors be shut down; (3) that an independent, citizen-controlled, public investigation and public hearing into the economics and safety of the Zion plant be conducted; (4) that at the conclusion of such investigation and hearing, a public referendum be held in order to determine whether or not the Zion Plant should re-open.

The situation is urgent, and, as the accidents and nuclear spillage of this week demonstrate, it grows more desperate with each succeeding day. Therefore, unless these requests are met by 2 P.M., Saturday, May 12, simple morality compels us to signal this grave danger to our community by an act of non-violent civil disobedience: we intend to peacefully place our bodies across the entranceway to the Zion Nuclear Power Plant.

Our reasons for believing the Zion Plant to constitute a demonstrable hazard to our community include the following: (1) the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's February report (License Regulatory Performance Evaluation) as well as earlier reports, show that Zion's safety record is the worst of any operating reactor in the entire United States; (2) the spent fuel rods stored at Zion contain high levels of radioactivity capable of causing cancer, leukemia, birth defects, and genetic diseases for generations to come; (3) the Zion pool containing these radioactive rods is now leaking at the rate of two (2) gallons per hour; (4) the recent events at Three Mile Island demonstrate that nuclear catastrophe could occur here; (5) CBS announced on 5-1-79 that the N.R.C. itself, in a secret report, recommended that the Zion plant be shut down due to its hazard.

We value the lives and health of our neighbors and our children, as well as that of our children's children; we value the democratic principles whereby the citizens of a community decide the issues which vitally affect that community. Because we say "Yes" to human life and to democratic ideals, our conscience demands that we say "No" to that which threatens to destroy them.

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In Peace,

The Concerned Citizens of Lake County
(Affiliate of the Chiwaukee Radioactivists)

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