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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MAY 21 1979

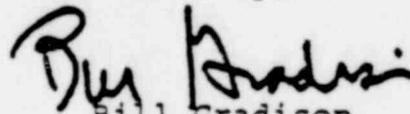
Mr. James R. Yore
Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Yore:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from some constituents of mine, the Heitkamp Family of Cincinnati, regarding the safety of the Zimmer power plant in Moscow, Ohio. As the plant's licensing hearings are under way, the Heitkamps are concerned about remarks they heard regarding the safety procedures followed in the plant's construction. I would greatly appreciate any comments you may have regarding their concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Bill Gradison
Representative in Congress

BG/pt
Enclosure

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6681 Bantry Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45223
April 12, 1979

Hon. Willis D. Gradison
1519 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

POOR ORIGINAL

Dear Congressman Gradison,

On Thursday, April 5, 1979, I attended a meeting of C.A.R.E. (Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment) at St. John's Unitarian Church in Cincinnati. At this meeting two men, both formerly employees with responsibilities at the Zimmer nuclear power plant at Moscow, Ohio, stated that, while they were employed there, grossly inadequate procedures were used in the construction of the Zimmer plant.

Mr. Vic Griffin, former quality control engineer with Kaiser Engineers, Inc., stated that components purchased by Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company received no independent inspection, i.e., that the word of the vendor was accepted as proof that a given part met specifications. (I know from my own line of work that the purchaser must do his own inspection to assure that the vendor has met specifications.) Mr. Griffin stated he resigned in protest about three years ago. The staff, he said, agreed with him but went silent upon his resignation. About three weeks ago, he said, he met a friend who is supervisor of construction at Zimmer; this friend said he could close the plant down tomorrow, if he told what he knew about the construction of the plant.

Also, Mr. Ed Hofsteiter, formerly of Husky Products, Inc. (Florence, Kentucky) stated that not one weld at Zimmer was done by a certified welder. His main concern was for certain sections

2077 521

of cable trays (supports which carry electric cables for the control of various systems, including the cooling system). Inadequate welds on certain sections of these trays are to be found, according to Hofstetter. (The NRC has also acknowledged widespread difficulties with welds in other nuclear plants.-- National Geographic, April, 1979) The cable trays are positioned, as described by Hofstetter, one above the other, so that if one fell it could dislodge or interfere with others; the back-up emergency systems, he said, are involved. Moreover, the trays, he feels, are 20 % overloaded and the fire protection material around them not approved by Underwriters Laboratories.

I am opposed to use^{of} nuclear energy in Cincinnati or anywhere else. A technology which, if disaster is to be averted, demands perfection at all times cannot be advocated, since humans can make errors. To permit Zimmer to operate, if such conditions exist, is pure lunacy. The plant is due to receive its atomic fuel in June of this year.

I request a reply as to what action you plan to take in regard to these claims.

Because the rest of my family is also opposed to nuclear energy and is concerned about these conditions they also sign.

Sincerely,

Lawrence W. Heitkamp (age 40--cook)

Walter A. Heitkamp (age 83--retired
purchasing agent)

Margaret M. Heitkamp (age 76--house
wife)

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2077 522