

Bloomington, Indiana
May 15, 1980

Mr. Robert Snewaker
Structural Engineer, NRC
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Snewaker:

This letter is concerned with your inquiry of May 8, 1980 regarding a statement made by Sassafras Audubon in their September 1, 1979 A REQUEST FOR A HEARING ON ORDER CONFIRMING SUSPENSION OF CONSTRUCTION to the effect: "No mention is made in the Order of Mr. Jewel Rogers, Mr. Stanley Mortenson, and Mr. Michael Walston, also concrete workers at Marble Hill, who signed affidavits, July 10, 1979, charging serious flaws in the concrete work at Marble Hill, including "heavy faults" in the base of the reactor containment building." (page 5).

Enclosed is a copy of a news article which appeared in The Indianapolis Star, July 11, 1979, titled "More Affidavits Claim Flaws in Marble Hill" from which the statement was taken. As I mentioned over the phone, Sassafras Audubon has copies of all of the worker affidavits concerning poor concrete construction of Marble Hill, including that of Mr. Carl E. Turner of July 23, 1979. The latter was particularly disturbing as it was Mr. Turner's opinion that certain areas could not be tested in situ for compressive strength by ultra sound.

Sassafras Audubon has supported Save The Valley's requests for an independent investigation of the safety-related concrete construction and is still seeking a public hearing to learn among other things of the thoroughness and results of Mr. Richard Muerow's microseismic testing and evaluation of the concrete. Any information you could give us on this subject would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. David G. Frey
Mrs. David G. Frey
2625 S. Smith Road
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

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More Affidavits Claim Flaws In Marble Hill

Indpls. Star 7/10/79

By MIKE McNAMEE

Three more affidavits charging serious flaws in the concrete work at the Marble Hill nuclear plant — including "heavy faults" in the reactor containment building — were filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission late Tuesday.

The affidavits, given by former construction workers at the plant site near Madison, "named names in telling who ordered certain cover-ups" of concrete flaws, according to attorney Thomas M. Dattilo.

The statements pointed out "one specifically heavy area of faults" in the base of the reactor containment building which would hold the first of two nuclear reactors planned for the Marble Hill site, Dattilo said.

State's nuclear disaster evacuation planning may be inadequate. Page 8.

PROBLEMS IN expansion joints — similar to those in highways which allow the roadbed to expand and contract at different temperatures — could cause the base of the containment to crack, he said.

The workers are more experienced and worked longer at the site than did Charles Edward Cutshall, whose affidavit last month first set off investigations of Newberg Construction Co.'s concrete work at the nuclear plant, the attorney said.

Dattilo, who is attorney for the Indiana-Kentucky environmental group Save the Valley, called for an impartial group to take over the investigation of concrete faults from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"Are they there to investigate or to react to public pressure?" Dattilo said of the NRC protesters at the plant. "We don't intend to keep finding the flaws for them. Why can't they find them?"

CHARGING THAT the NRC "intends to regulate nuclear power and to continue its growth," Dattilo called for a "neutral body to investigate 'Marblegate.'" A congressional probe would be in order, he said.

The NRC halted concrete work in safety-related areas of the plant — areas which would have to hold radiation — for almost two weeks while it investigated Cutshall's original charges. The stop-work order was lifted Saturday, but Public Service Indiana, owner of the plant, was ordered to maintain a heavy schedule of inspections.

An investigation into Cutshall's charges that he was ordered to cover up concrete flaws is continuing, NRC spokesman Jan Strasma said Tuesday. The NRC has verified all of Cutshall's allegations except the cover-up charges, he said.

"IF IT'S A matter of a deliberate attempt to deceive the NRC, this could be a possible matter for criminal investigation by the Justice Department," Strasma said.

Dattilo said the new affidavits pointed out specific faults in the concrete pouring and improper techniques used. They charged that concrete forms were not properly vibrated — shaken by machines to ensure that the poured concrete settles evenly into the forms.

"They also pointed out where laborers were used in place of skilled concrete finishers" in repairing bad concrete, he said.

One affidavit also discusses "certain situations in the union" governing Newberg's concrete workers, Dattilo said. One of the workers was laid off after he began questioning procedures at the plant, he said. The other two quit.

THE WORKERS are Jewel Rogers of Clark County and Stanley Mortensen of Louisville, who both worked three months at the plant, and Michael Walston of Clark County, a concrete finisher who worked from February to June at Marble Hill, Dattilo said.

The affidavits were filed with the NRC's regional office in Chicago late Tuesday, Dattilo said. Copies which are made public will have "certain names of those who ordered the cover-up" stricken, he said.

"I understand that they're going to investigate in their own inimitable way," Dattilo said, "but I'd like to see more than what they call an investigation."