

P02
50-541



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

JUN 2 1980

Mr. Thomas Ober
202 Richard Drive
Glenshaw, PA 15116

Dear Mr. Ober:

Your March 27, 1980 letter to President Carter concerning the qualifications of personnel engaged in the design of the Fermi Nuclear Station was recently referred to the NRC for response. This question was raised during a March television program, 20/20, on ABC News.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) investigation into this matter disclosed that certain Detroit Edison Company activities failed to comply with the NRC's requirements. Effective controls governing small bore piping suspension design were not in effect. In addition, it was determined that the resumes of certain individuals did contain false information, but that the resumes were not relied upon in selecting the personnel. With regard to your specific concern with personnel qualifications at the Fermi site, the NRC investigation has determined, that in general, the qualifications of these people were adequate to perform their required design function. Detroit Edison will no longer be using the employment service that originally supplied these people. What was found to be of concern in this regard however, was the fact that Detroit Edison had not established personnel qualification requirements for these design positions; nor had the utility performed a proper review of the final design product.

The utility has been issued a Notice of Violation which requires appropriate corrective action and steps to prevent a recurrence. The utility response to this NRC citation is now being reviewed and evaluated by the inspection staff to determine the acceptability of Detroit Edison's proposed actions. The specific corrective measures will be subsequently verified during a future NRC inspection. NRC inspectors have previously performed, as a part of their routine inspection program, several inspections of the design and installation of large diameter pipe supports, and the deficiencies that were found were brought to the attention of Detroit Edison for corrective action.

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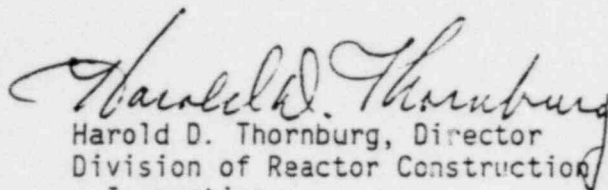
Mr. Thomas Ober

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We appreciate having the opportunity to respond to the concerns you expressed. The problems found at the Fermi site as a result of the ABC television investigation, have been fully identified and will be corrected not only at Fermi but at all other nuclear sites where they may be found to exist. We trust this information is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Harold D. Thornburg in cursive script.

Harold D. Thornburg, Director
Division of Reactor Construction
Inspection
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

202 Richard Drive
Glenshaw, Pa. 15116
March 27, 1980

President Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Carter:

I agree with your stand on nuclear energy. I believe that it is the answer to our energy problem; but as brought out in the March 19th showing of ABC's 20/20, the plant in question is not being built correctly. Some of the employees installing the system have no background in nuclear engineering, and the plant itself does not check on its employees. I feel that the government, at this stage in nuclear technology, should make sure that this plant is built correctly, so that there will not be another Three Mile Island occurrence.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Cher
Thomas Cher

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