



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

Docket No. 50-409

MAR 28 1980

Mr. Paul Prevenas
Board of Directors
Badger Safe Energy Alliance
Post Office Box 68
Durand, Wisconsin 54736

Dear Mr. Prevenas:

This is in response to your letter dated January 26, 1980 to Mr. Harold Denton, which requested that all future meetings relating to Dairyland Power Cooperative's La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor (LACBWR) be held in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area. You also expressed concern about the decision by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board which allowed expansion of the La Crosse spent fuel storage pool.

With respect to the meeting cancelled by Dairyland, Mr. Richard Vollmer of my staff during a telephone discussion on January 15, 1980, advised Ms. Ann Morse an intervenor in LACBWR proceedings, that if the meeting on the projected operating lifetime of LACBWR is rescheduled, the NRC staff would hold such a meeting in the La Crosse area. Please be assured that if such a meeting is rescheduled it will be held in your state and notice will be provided so that interested persons will be aware of the date, time and location.

We do recognize that it can be advantageous for the staff to meet with intervenors and interested groups such as yours. Such informal meetings can be arranged on an ad hoc basis to allow these persons or groups to communicate their concerns so that the staff can consider them in their review process and keep these interested persons aware of relevant staff activities involving the plant. This also assists in the public's understanding of the NRC's role in regulating nuclear power plants. However, the technical meetings conducted routinely on all nuclear plants are a necessary and desirable means of communicating during the course of a review or evaluation of a technical problem. It is not our procedure to systematically invite public participation during these meetings because the exchange of useful information between technically qualified individuals could be seriously encumbered if such meetings were used to air individual grievances. Moreover, the cost and time associated with sending all of the NRC's review staff and its consultants to Wisconsin for routine meetings would be excessive.

The discussion which follows is in regard to your concern about the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board authorizing the fuel pool expansion and your objection to continued operation of LACBWR.

The Coulee Region Energy Coalition was admitted in 1978 as an Intervenor party to participate in two proceedings before the Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The first proceeding, fuel pool expansion,

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Mr. Paul Prevenas

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has recently concluded with issuance of the Licensing Board's decision approving a license amendment for LACBWR. One issue has been referred by the Licensing Board for review by the Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board. This issue concerns requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act as it applies to the proceeding on the fuel pool expansion.

Presently, a second proceeding has begun to consider the 1974 application by Dairyland Power Cooperative for conversion of its provisional operating license to a full-term license. The Commission issued in 1976 a Draft Environmental Statement of all environmental factors to be considered in the proposed license conversion. The Draft Statement was circulated to appropriate Federal and State agencies for comment and also was made available to the public. We anticipate the issuance of the Final Environmental Statement in March 1980.

A hearing will be held in Wisconsin by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in the near future to consider evidence addressing several environmental contentions submitted by the Coalition for hearing. At the conclusion of hearing, the Licensing Board will decide if the environmental impacts of granting a full-term license for the LACBWR would preclude issuance of the full-term license by the Commission.

We do not believe there is any secrecy involving NRC's regulating activities pertaining to LACBWR. Documents, correspondence and other material pertinent to the licensing activities of this plant are available for inspection by your group and other interested persons at the Local Public Document Room, La Crosse Public Library, 800 Main Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601.

I hope that this letter is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

(Signed) E. Kevin Cornell

William J. Dircks
Acting Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Senator William Proxmire



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BADGER SAFE ENERGY ALLIANCE
POST OFFICE BOX 68
DURAND, WISCONSIN 54736

"Working for a safe energy future"

Member Groups

- Alternative Power Alliance
Madison, WI 53703
- Beaver Creek Safe Energy Alliance
Whitehall, WI 54773
- Citizens Actively United for Safe Energy
Menomonie, WI 54751
- Citizens for Clean Energy
Alma, WI 54610
- Citizens for Safe Energy
Gays Mills, WI 54631
- Citizens for the Future
Durand, WI 54736
- Citizens for Tomorrow
Rock Falls, WI 54764
- Coulee Region Energy Coalition
LaCrosse, WI 54601
- Eau Galle Citizens for Safe Energy
Eau Galle, WI 54737
- Families for Safe Energy
Elmwood, WI 54740
- Farmers United for Safe Energy
Glenwood City, WI 54013
- Neighbors for Safe Energy
Mondovi, WI 54755
- Northern Thunder
Eau Claire, WI 54701
- Northern Thunder - North
Turtle Lake, WI 54889
- People Against Nuclear Energy
Prairie Farm, WI 54762
- People for Safe Energy
Hager City, WI 54014
- Pepin County Citizens for Safe Energy
Arkansas, WI 54721
- Plum City Citizens for Safe Energy
Plum City, WI 54761
- Rock Creek Farmers
Mondovi, WI 54755
- Winona Northern Sun Alliance
Winona, WI 55957

January 26, 1980

The Honorable William Proxmire
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

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DEAR SENATOR PROXMIRE:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which was sent to Mr. Harold Denton of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, asking that any future meetings with the NRC about the Genoa nuclear power plant be held in the LaCrosse area.

We feel that this request is especially justified in light of the fact that several members of the Coulee Region Energy Coalition (one of our member groups which has intervened before the NRC in Genoa reactor proceedings) drove to Washington earlier this month to attend a meeting with the NRC requested by Dairyland Power Cooperative, only to find upon reaching Washington that the meeting had been cancelled.

The fact that Dairyland Power Cooperative cancelled the meeting because the intervenors were present speaks for itself.

If our member groups are to continue working in the system, then it is crucial that they be afforded a reasonable opportunity for input.

We urge you to ask the NRC to honor our request, and hold any additional meetings or hearings concerning the Genoa nuclear power plant in the LaCrosse, Wisconsin vicinity.

We hope you share our belief that this is a reasonable and justified request, and that you contact the NRC about it without delay.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

VERY TRULY YOURS,
Paul Prevenas
 Paul Prevenas
 Board of Directors

2/11...To EDO For Direct Reply...Suspense: Feb.20 ...OCA to Ack.Original to Docket...80-0305.



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Neighbors for Safe Energy
Mondovi, WI 54755

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Eau Claire, WI 54701

Northern Thunder - North
Turtle Lake, WI 54889

People Against Nuclear Energy
Prairie Farm, WI 54762

People for Safe Energy
Hager City, WI 54014

Pepin County Citizens for Safe Energy
Arkansaw, WI 54721

Plum City Citizens for Safe Energy
Plum City, WI 54761

Rock Creek Farmers
Mondovi, WI 54755

Winona Northern Sun Alliance
Winona, MN 55987

January 26, 1980

Mr. Harold Denton - Chairperson
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

DEAR MR. DENTON:

The Badger Safe Energy Alliance is a coalition of twenty citizen action groups who are working together to promote the rapid development of renewable energy resources in our region, and to oppose unsafe and environmentally unsound energy projects proposed by the utilities.

We have earned a reputation for responsible citizen intervention before both the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Our several hundred individual members, primarily family farmers, share a deep concern for our environment, and for the administration of justice through our American system of law.

We are extremely disappointed by the recent decision by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board chaired by Charles Beckhoefer to allow the capacity of the spent fuel storage pool at the Genoa, Wisconsin nuclear power plant to be increased. One of our member groups, the Coulee Region Energy Coalition (CREC), intervened in that proceeding, and provided an excellent case not only against the fuel pool expansion, but against the continued operation of the marginal, aging, and unreliable reactor as well.

In approving the pool expansion, the Licensing Board gave Dairyland Power (who owns and operates the Genoa reactor) every benefit of the doubt, while turning its head away from obvious, even glaring problems associated with running this reactor, which is the smallest operating commercial nuclear power plant in the Nation. Given the marginal nature of the power produced at the Genoa reactor, the decision to allow its continued operation by expanding the capacity of its spent fuel pool is a disservice to the citizens of our State.

Moreover, we are outraged that Dairyland Power Cooperative

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Harold Denton (page two)

cancelled a scheduled meeting to discuss problems with the Genoa reactor with the NRC after finding that members of CREC had driven to Washington to be present for the discussion.

The aura of secrecy surrounding the Genoa reactor, and the contempt for responsible co-op member involvement shown by Dairyland Power, can no longer be tolerated. The members of the "cooperative", as well as the general public, deserve to be included in all decisions concerning the Genoa nuclear power plant.

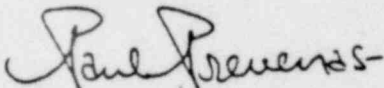
The Badger Safe Energy Alliance therefore strongly requests that the NRC hold any and all meetings concerning the Genoa reactor in the LaCrosse, Wisconsin area. This will not only facilitate co-op member involvement, but will afford a fair and reasonable opportunity for input from the intervenors.

We remind you that because Wisconsin law exempts electric cooperatives from the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission in our State, the NRC is the ONLY regulatory agency that can adequately oversee the situation at the Genoa reactor. And it is ONLY before the NRC that the public can find any redress of grievances against the operators of the plant.

We believe that our request is quite reasonable, and that the NRC should travel to the LaCrosse area for any future meetings concerning the Genoa reactor, whether the meeting is requested by Dairyland Power or not.

If the NRC chooses to deny this request, it can only raise a serious doubt as to the Commission's impartiality in the Genoa power plant proceedings.

VERY TRULY YOURS:



Paul Prevenas
Board of Directors
Badger Safe Energy Alliance

cc ✓ Honorable William Proxmire, U.S. Senator
Honorable Gaylord Nelson, U.S. Senator
Honorable Al Baldus, U.S. Representative
Mr. Stanley York, Chairperson, Wisconsin Public Service Commission

January 15, 1980

NOTE TO: Harold Denton

I responded to your call from Ann Morris, LaCrosse intervenor. She expressed strong feelings that the cancellation of last Friday's scheduled meeting with Dairyland Power, cancelled Thursday, P.M., by Dairyland while the intervenors were en route, was because of the intervenors anticipated attendance. I assured Ms. Morris that the NRC would continue to make every attempt to keep them informed of activity on the LaCrosse case. Further, if the meeting on the projected operating lifetime of LaCrosse was rescheduled, we would hold the meeting in Wisconsin to assure their attendance.

Original signed by:
Richard H. Vollmer

Richard H. Vollmer

cc: E. Case
D. Eisenhut
D. Ziemann
J. Shea
C. Woodhead

Distribution Copies:

Docket No. 50-409

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SEP r/f

~~R~~Vollmer

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OFFICE ▶ SEP 20 1980
SUBNAME ▶ R. Vollmer/im