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APR 28 1980

Docket Nos. 50-295  
and 50-304

The Honorable Bill Morris  
Mayor of Waukegan  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

Dear Mayor Morris:

This is in response to your letter of February 28, 1980 to President Carter. In your letter you expressed disappointment with the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's decision to allow Commonwealth Edison Company (CECO) to increase the storage capacity of the spent fuel pool at Zion Nuclear Plant. You expressed concern since the community of Waukegan (65,000 residents) is immediately adjacent to the plant.

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board held public hearings, as you are aware, in Waukegan starting in November 1978 and terminating on June 22, 1979. During the hearings evidence was presented by the only intervening party (State of Illinois) with respect to its contentions. In addition, during the hearings all interested members of the public who wished to make limited appearance statements were also heard. The City of Waukegan was heard, but they did not choose full intervenor status.

After thoroughly reviewing all contentions as well as safety questions raised by the Safety Board itself, the Board concluded, among other things, that the proposed action would not significantly affect the human environment. A copy of the Board's Initial Decision dated February 14, 1980 is enclosed for your use. The Board ordered that certain restrictions be included in the license amendment in addition to those proposed by CECO and those already existing for operation of the spent fuel pool. Consequently, the direct affect is added assurance that the spent fuel pool is safer than when originally licensed. I feel that if you will review the Board's findings you will have a better understanding of the safety of the Zion plant spent fuel pool with its approved increased capacity. I am confident that the change will not endanger the health and safety of the public.

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For your information, I do share your concern for Zion Station's being located in the relatively high population density area. Because of this concern, I have taken major additional actions, over and above those of most other operating plants, to increase the safety at the Zion Station. These actions include the following:

1. Issued a Confirmatory Order to CEEO on February 29, 1980 which listed additional actions necessary for continued assurance that the public health and safety will not be endangered by continued operation of Zion Station. A copy of the Confirmatory Order is enclosed for your information.
2. Established a Task Force and allocated resources to assure a timely implementation of the high priority task of upgrading the emergency preparedness plans and capabilities for Zion Station.
3. Issued a Task Action Plan delineating certain actions to be taken by the Office of Inspection and Enforcement, the Office of Research and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The Task Action Plan, as well as additional information concerning the Staff review of the Zion Station, is contained in my letter to CEEO dated April 9, 1980. A copy is enclosed for your information.

On a broadened scale, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has initiated actions to upgrade emergency planning at and around all nuclear facilities in the unlikely event of a severe nuclear incident. Actions include the following:

1. Proposed Rulemaking on the subject of State and local emergency plans and those of the licensee to seek public comment on a broad range of emergency planning issues. The NRC Staff preliminary analysis of the public comments is contained in NUREG-0620 a copy of which is enclosed for your information.
2. The Staff and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have developed interim guidance and upgraded acceptance criteria to be used to determine the emergency preparedness of each nuclear plant as well as plans of the State and local governments involved. This draft guidance is contained in NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 "Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants". A copy is enclosed for your information.

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Mayor Morris

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I trust my comments together with the enclosed information will give you added assurance that we are continuing in our efforts to assure public safety at and near the Zion Station.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
H. R. Denton /

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Board's Initial Decision  
dtd 02-14-80
2. Confirmatory Order dtd  
02-29-80
3. Ltr to CECO dtd. 04-09-80
4. NUREG-0628
5. NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1

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*See Comment  
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