

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

MAY 06 1980

Docket Nos. 50-295
and 50-304

The Honorable Bill Morris
Mayor of Waukegan
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

Dear Mayor Morris:

I am writing in response to your letter to me dated February 28, 1980. In the letter you requested that I reject the license to increase the storage capacity of the Zion Station spent fuel pool even though the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board had ordered issuance of the license amendment on February 14, 1980. My staff completed the action in response to the Licensing Board's Order on February 28, 1979 by issuance of a license amendment for Zion Station. This action occurred prior to receipt of your letter on March 3, 1980.

None the less, I also share some of the concern you expressed regarding any evacuation of the 65,000 people of Waukegan. My concern relates to the upgrading of emergency plans for the much more serious type of postulated accident scenario. Upgrading of the nuclear site and local area emergency plans for this case would envelope your expressed concerns about increasing the amount of spent fuel stored at Zion Station.

Thus, I have taken action to assure that upgraded emergency plans are implemented at all licensed operating reactor sites. This action was initiated by NRC Letter of October 10, 1979 (copy enclosed) to all power reactor licensees. Following this letter, a review team consisting of members of my staff visited the Zion Station. The team held meetings with Commonwealth Edison Company, visited with local and state officials along with representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and held a public meeting in Zion on November 2, 1979 to discuss new interim guidance and upgraded acceptance criteria for emergency preparedness. On January 3, 1980 the licensee submitted their upgraded Emergency Plan, which included the Zion Station, to NRC for review and approval. FEMA has the review responsibility for state and local emergency plans.

The joint FEMA/NRC Steering Committee had developed the interim guidance and upgraded acceptance criteria to provide a basis for use of reactor licensees and state and local governments to develop radiological emergency plans and improve emergency preparedness. This guidance was published in January 1980, sent to all licensees on March 10, 1980, and is currently being used in the Emergency Plan evaluations. A copy of our March 10, 1980 letter and the enclosed joint FEMA/NRC guidelines is enclosed for your information.

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POOR ORIGINAL

Honorable Bill Morris

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In closing, you can be assured that I will continue to monitor this emergency preparedness endeavor. My office is ready to assist you in your efforts in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

DISTRIBUTION:

Docket 50-295 304

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