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

MAY 21 1980

The Honorable Tom Railsback  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Congressman Railsback:

In reply to your letter of April 23, 1980, to the Office of Congressional Affairs in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) concerning correspondence from Fred L. Willman, enclosed are excerpts from Final Environmental Statements regarding impacts on land uses at the sites of nuclear power plants in Illinois. These impacts have been included in cost-benefit analyses which have indicated that, on balance, the benefits of the plants outweighed the costs. Of course, the amount of farmland involved is a very small fraction of the total farmland available in Illinois.

A more detailed discussion of land use is given in the enclosed direct testimony of NRC witness Jerry R. Kline in the environmental hearing in 1975 for the Clinton nuclear power station.

It may be noted that the area required for the site of a nuclear power plant is greater when an artificial cooling lake is used (as for the Dresden, LaSalle, Clinton, and Braidwood plants), instead of once-through cooling from a natural body of water (as for the Zion plant), or cooling towers (as for the Byron plant), or spray canals (as for the Quad Cities plant).

As to radioactive wastes, the commercial burial ground for low-level wastes at Sheffield, Illinois, has reached its licensed capacity; an environmental assessment is being made for decommissioning this facility. The burial ground in Kentucky and the one in New York have been closed. Those burial grounds operating are in the States of South Carolina, Nevada and Washington.

Spent fuel is being stored at reactor sites of nuclear power plants, and the capacity of storage pools for this purpose is being increased in a number of cases. An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has been appointed to conduct a hearing on the application by the General Electric Company for renewal of its license for the receipt and storage of spent fuel at its Midwest Fuel Recovery Plant at Morris, Illinois.

Sincerely,

*W. J. Dircks*  
For William J. Dircks  
Acting Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosures:  
See next page

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1. Excerpt from ES dtd Sept. 1972  
for Quad-Cities, Units 1 & 2
2. Excerpt from ES dtd Dec. 1972  
for Zion, Units 1 and 2
3. Excerpt from ES dtd Feb. 1973  
for La Salle Nuclear Station
4. Excerpt from ES dtd Nov. 1973  
for Dresden, Unit 2 and 3
5. Excerpt from ES dtd July 1974  
for Braidwood Station
6. Excerpt from ES dtd July 1974  
for Byron Station, Units 1 and 2
7. Excerpt from ES dtd Oct. 1974  
for Clinton, Units 1 and 2
8. Copy of Direct Testimony of  
Jerry R. Kline before ASLB