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50-321



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

MAY 29 1980

Mr. Norman V. Conway, III
2935 37th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 27831

Dear Mr. Conway:

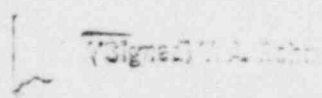
This refers to your March 21, 1980 letter to President Jimmy Carter in which you expressed your concerns with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's investigation of ABC Television's allegations that serious problems exist at the Fermi Nuclear Station construction site.

Our investigation into this matter has disclosed that certain Detroit Edison Company activities failed to comply with the NRC's requirements that controls governing small bore piping suspension design should have been in effect. With regard to your specific concern with personnel qualifications at the Fermi site, the NRC investigation has determined that the resumes of certain individuals did contain false information, but that the resumes were not relied upon in selecting these personnel. As a matter of fact, the qualifications of these people were found adequate to perform their required design function. Also, it has been determined that 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 subsequently 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.

We appreciate having the opportunity to respond to you concerns, and sincerely hope that you are now satisfied that problems found at the Fermi site as a result of the ABC television investigation, have been fully identified and will be corrected. We trust this information is responsive to your needs.

Sincerely,


William J. Dircks
Acting Executive Director
for Operations

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THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
POOR QUALITY PAGES

Nuclear Power - [unclear]

Des Moines, Iowa
2935 - 37th Street
March 21, 1980

President Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Carter:

I am writing this letter in the hopes that something will be accomplished. Last evening I was watching the program 20/20 on ABC-TV, and I could not believe what I was hearing.

It dealt with the Fermi Nuclear Power Plant now under construction in Michigan. I have learned that an employment agency, Quen-Tech, I believe, finds the engineers for the project and sends them to Detroit Edison where, if qualified, they are put to work - their responsibilities enormous, obviously.

It seems that ABC did some investigating and had discovered that three men sent by Quen-Tech were in no way qualified for their positions. For example, a man was found and sent to Detroit Edison where he was put to work on the Fermi project, believing to have had three to five years nuclear piping experience, which was required for the position, but ABC investigated and found out that this man worked in sewage system piping for two years and then in a paint factory in Toledo, having no nuclear experience whatsoever.

Another man, also sent by Quen-Tech, said he worked at a nuclear plant in India for two years then moved here. It turns out, as ABC also discovered, that at the time this man says he worked there, the plant was shut down - closed three years earlier.

This is where the Government comes in. It seems ABC turned in their findings to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission last January and the NRC finished their investigation in February, but the men are still on Detroit Edison's payroll.

It sure is sad that the Government had to be brought into it in the first place, but it seems that these big businessmen need a babysitter to keep an eye on them, someone to make sure they stay in line and out of trouble.

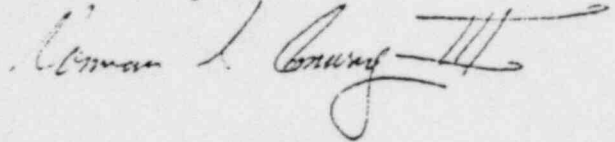
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The thing that I cannot understand is, if all the ABC's findings were true, why are these men still working on a big and dangerous project, such as Fermi? Why are the people of NRC permitting these men to continue?

I would very much appreciate a response to my letter.

Sincerely yours

NORMAN V CONWAY III



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