

John T. Shaff  
RR 1, Box 193  
Camanche, Iowa 52730  
(319)522-2554  
August 27, 1989

Mr. James M. Taylor  
Acting Executive Director for Operations  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I received last week your reply to Senator Harkin regarding my letter about the containment system at the Quad-Cities Station. I appreciate your reply which the Senator sent on to me.

My laymans understanding of the situation is that given the right (or wrong) accident at the plant conditions may be such that a radiation leak or even a large release of radiation could occur early during the incident. Given what we know about the problems that we are hearing about Chernobyl I believe that this is an unacceptable risk.

The first publication that I have found about the containment units is an issue brief Order Code # IB86130 updated January 5, 1988. It is now August 27, 1989 a year and one half later and it may be three more years before this installation will take place that is a minimum of 4 1/2 years and probably more that the public in our area has been subjected to a greater risk than need be.

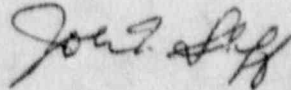
Before I sound too much like an alarmist I realize that the chances of a major problem at any of these plants is small. Is that going to be any consolation to those of us in the area if a disaster that could have been much less severe were to take place? According to the NRC documents it will take 10-30 hours to evacuate Clinton with a mean time of 22 hours. An evacuation might not even be possible during a blizzard. If an early radiation release were to take place there are many in Clinton who would not be out of town yet. There are many here who have roots in this community who would be very upset at not being able to return home in the near future if even. Chernobyl caused an evacuation of 100+ mile radius. The economic cost of a permanent even 10 mile radius around the Quad Cities Station would be nearly unthinkable.

Nuclear energy is needed now and in the future, but the best way to stop it is to have a disaster that goes beyond the bounds of acceptable damage. Three Mile Island came close but if any containment system in this country ever gave way the radiation it is supposed to contain I am sure that it would be the end of Nuclear power as we now know it.

8911130329 891030  
PDR ADDCK 05000254  
H PDR

I simply feel that even though the local NRC officials are doing a fine job, it is taking too long to mandate these changes and that the NRC in Washington is showing signs of looking too much at utility welfare and not enough at the welfare of the general public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John T. Shaff".

John T. Shaff

cc: Senator Tom Harkin  
Governor Terry Branstad

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*Tom Harkin*  
U.S.S.

James M. Taylor  
Acting Executive Director for Operations  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

