

50-346

FEB 23 1971

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Honorable Thomas L. Ashley
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Ashley:

I am pleased to furnish the following information in response to your February 11, 1971, referral of a letter from Mrs. Lorie Bodell protesting construction of the proposed Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant near Port Clinton, Ohio.

The Davis-Besse construction permit application is now being considered by the Atomic Energy Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board following a public hearing that was recently held in Port Clinton, Ohio.

I am enclosing for Mrs. Bodell's information a copy of testimony presented by Mr. Lester Rogers of the AEC's Regulatory Staff at the Davis-Besse hearing. This testimony discusses in some detail the AEC's regulations that apply to the control of radioactivity in air and water effluents.

We are not aware of any studies by eminent scientists that have shown that the incidence of cancer among people living near atomic power plants is 10 times greater than compared to those not living in these areas. Perhaps Mrs. Bodell is referring to recent statements that have been made by Dr. Ernest Sternglass relating to infant mortality and effluent releases from nuclear power plants. I am enclosing a document prepared by the staff of the AEC and one prepared by the Bureau of Radiological Health, U. S. Public Health Service, that deal with Dr. Sternglass's statements on this subject. The Public Health Service report was submitted as evidence in AEC rebuttal testimony at the Davis-Besse hearing.

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Honorable Thomas L. Ashley

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Briefly, both of these reports conclude that the analysis of the data presented by Dr. Sternglass does not support his contention that an association exists between exposure to the radioactive emissions from nuclear power plants studied and infant mortality.

I hope this information will be helpful to Mrs. Bodell.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Marvin H. Mann
Harold L. Price
Director of Regulation

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Enclosures:

1. Testimony of Lester Rogers
2. Summary of Critique and Critique prepared by AEC staff
3. A Critical Review prepared by A. K. Davis and Bernd Kahn
4. Incoming Correspondence

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