

MAR 3 1971

Docket Nos. 50-368  
50-313 ✓

Honorable J. W. Fulbright  
United States Senate

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS  
POOR QUALITY PAGES

Dear Senator Fulbright:

I am pleased to respond to your January 9, 1971, referral of a letter from Mr. Arthur P. Baker questioning the safety and environmental effects of nuclear power plants and specifically mentioning reactors to be located on Lake Dardnelle.

The Commission, on December 6, 1968, issued a construction permit to Arkansas Power and Light Company for a power reactor to be located in Pope County, Arkansas, six miles west of Russellville on the Dardnelle Reservoir of the Arkansas River. The application was approved following a thorough safety evaluation by our technical staff, a separate review and favorable report from the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, and an uncontested public hearing held in nearby Russellville. On September 17, 1970, the company applied for a permit to construct a second unit at the initial site. A copy of the applicant's environmental report, indicating that cooling towers will be employed to dissipate the waste heat, is enclosed for your use.

With regard to Mr. Baker's first question, the statutory authority of the Atomic Energy Commission to regulate the private uses of atomic energy stems primarily from the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, which pertains principally to radiological safety considerations. The AEC is also implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and the Water Quality Improvement Act with respect to possible environmental effects for each major nuclear facility. Under the Water Quality Improvement Act, the AEC now has authority and responsibility to require nuclear power plant licensees to provide certification by the appropriate State and Federal agency that there is reasonable assurance the plant will not violate applicable water quality standards. I am enclosing a booklet, "Licensing of Power Reactors", which explains our regulatory procedures for the protection of the public. Also enclosed is a general policy statement issued recently to explain our method for carrying out the spirit and intent of the new environmental legislation.

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Honorable J. W. Fulbright

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I am also enclosing the booklet "Nuclear Power and the Environment" which discusses the radiological and thermal aspects of the environmental effects of nuclear power plants, and the research conducted by the AEC, industry, and others to further expand our knowledge.

Regarding Mr. Baker's comments on safe disposal of radioactive wastes, I am providing you a background booklet, "Radioactive Wastes", which discusses the nature of these "radwaste" products and various AEC waste management programs. A related booklet, "Atomic Power Safety", discusses the nature, measurement and control of radioactivity at nuclear power plants.

I hope this information and the accompanying materials will be helpful to your constituent.

Cordially,

Chairman

Enclosures:

1. Applicant's Environmental Report
2. "Licensing of Power Reactors"
3. General Policy Statement
4. "Nuclear Power and the Environment"
5. "Radioactive Wastes"
6. "Atomic Power Safety"

DISTRIBUTION:

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- Commissioner Ramey
- Commissioner Johnson
- Commissioner Larson
- Secretary (2)
- OCR (2)
- H. L. Price, DR
- P. A. Morris, DRL
- H. K. Shapar, OGC
- PDR (50-368) and (50-313)
- G. Ertter (DR-3026)
- B. Easterling, DR
- C. Miles, PI

For concurrences, see attached yellow

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SURNAME ▶	BEasterling:jjh	PAMorris	CLHenderson	HLPrice		
DATE ▶	2/27/71	2/ /71	3/ /71	2/28/71	3/2/71	3/2/71

Honorable J. W. Fulbright

-2-

In 1969, the AEC conducted a survey of the research programs being performed by the Commission and the industry and of the procedures being taken to minimize the impact of nuclear plants on man and his environment. The enclosed report, "Nuclear Power and the Environment", which resulted from this survey is illustrative of a number of projects in this area, some of which are currently underway.

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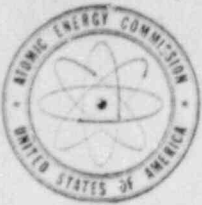
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 C. Miles, PI

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	DATE ▶	2/1/71	2/16/71	2/ /71	2/ /71	2/ /71	2/ /71



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

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