

Docket No. 50-346

NOV 18 1970

Honorable Delbert L. Latta
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Latta:

I am pleased to reply to your letter of October 7, 1970, transmitting a letter from Mrs. Bruce Card expressing opposition to the Toledo Edison Company's proposed Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. I am enclosing staff comments in response to Mrs. Card's concerns.

If I can provide any further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
Chris L. Henderson

for Harold L. Price
Director of Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Staff Comments w/encls.
2. Ltr fm Rep. Latta dtd 10/7/70

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R4-7 DATE	10/26/70	10/ /70	10/20/70	10/17/70	10/17/70	10/18/70

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Staff Comments in Response to Letter
from Mrs. Bruce Card, Toledo, Ohio

The regulatory staff of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) is presently in the process of reviewing and evaluating the application of the Toledo Edison Company to construct and operate the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. I will forward Mrs. Card a copy of the staff's safety evaluation when it is issued. Before issuing any permit or license, the Commission must find that there is reasonable assurance that the facility can be constructed and operated without endangering public health and safety.

The enclosed booklet, "Licensing of Power Reactors," describes in more detail the AEC's safety review of applications for the construction and operation of nuclear power plants and the AEC's continuing surveillance of operating plants. Also enclosed is a copy of "Atomic Power Safety," and the recently published booklet entitled "Nuclear Power and the Environment."

The principal bases for the Commission's regulations and special license requirements governing the release of radioactivity in effluents from AEC-licensed activities are the radiation protection guides developed by the Federal Radiation Council (FRC) and approved by the President for the guidance of all Federal agencies. The FRC uses the best expertise in the field, and takes into account the recommendations of the National Council for Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) and the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

The AEC limits on concentrations of radioactivity permitted in nuclear power reactor water effluents leaving a plant site, prior to dilution in a stream or other body of water, are such that a member of the public could use the effluent as a source of drinking water throughout his lifetime without exceeding the FRC radiation protection guides for an individual in the population. Concentrations in the effluents are, of course, further reduced by dilution in the body of water into which they are discharged.

Limits on rates of release of radioactive gases are based on a conservative calculation which - at the point of highest radiation level averaged over a year, on or near the site boundary - would result in an exposure to an individual equal to the FRC radiation protection guide, if he remains on or near the site boundary for the entire year.

The Commission now has had about 10 years experience in the operation of licensed nuclear power reactors. This experience has shown that low-level wastes released during operation have been generally less than a few percent of authorized limits.

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Additional background information on the AEC's regulatory program as related to the control of releases of radioactivity in effluents from nuclear facilities is included in the enclosed print of hearings before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy on the Environmental Effects of Producing Electric Power. Mrs. Card's attention is called especially to Commissioner Theos J. Thompson's testimony on pages 175 through 194, Commissioner Clarence E. Larson's testimony on pages 238 through 276, and the testimony of Dr. Paul Tompkins, Executive Director of the Federal Radiation Council, on pages 391 through 415 of the print. This testimony discusses in detail sources of radioactive effluents from a nuclear power plant and how these effluents are processed, the bases for radiation protection standards, how these standards are applied as limits on normal releases of small quantities of radioactive material, the results of environmental monitoring programs around nuclear power plants, and environmental research programs on the effects of radiation that are carried out by the AEC.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, each Federal agency is required to consult with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies concerning major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and to prepare a detailed statement concerning, among other things, the environmental impact of the proposed action. Enclosed is a copy of the statement of general policy which indicates the manner in which the Atomic Energy Commission proposes to exercise its regulatory responsibilities under the Act. This policy statement is based upon the Council on Environmental Quality's Interim Guidelines, and was published for public comment in the Federal Register on June 3, 1970. As the policy statement indicates, the Commission has identified the licensing of nuclear power reactors as one of the actions which would require the preparation of an environmental statement.

The Toledo Edison Company has prepared an environmental report for the Davis-Besse plant. A copy of this report has been sent to the Governor of Ohio and the Council on Environmental Quality, and it has been made available for comment by appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies. After the conclusion of the comment period, the regulatory staff will prepare a detailed environmental statement which will include a discussion of any problems or objections raised and the disposition thereof. Copies of the detailed environmental statement will be forwarded to the Council on Environmental Quality and the agencies concerned, and will accompany the application through the Commission's review process, including the public hearing.

Mrs. Card commented that the northwestern Ohio area would not be in danger of power failures for some three years. It should be noted that the

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Davis-Besse plant is not scheduled to go into commercial operation until about December 1974.

Regarding insurance, the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, requires the owner of each large nuclear power plant to purchase \$82 million in public liability insurance to cover damage claims from nuclear accidents, the maximum amount that is currently available from the private sector. That includes damage both to people and to property. In addition, the Federal Government, by law, provides indemnity for public liability claims for an additional \$478 million. Thus, a total of \$560 million is available to pay claims for damages in the extremely unlikely event of a nuclear accident.

Mrs. Card also expressed concern about the transportation of wastes. On page 337 of the enclosed Joint Committee on Atomic Energy print "Selected Materials on Environmental Effects of Producing Electric Power," Dr. Joseph A. Lieberman, former Assistant Director of Nuclear Safety, Division of Reactor Development and Technology discusses the management of radioactive wastes. In addition, enclosed is a copy of a speech by Dr. Clifford K. Beck, Deputy Director of Regulation, on the "Requirements for Transportation of Nuclear Fuels and Wastes."

Enclosures:

1. Three Booklets
2. JCAE Print, Part 1
3. AEC Policy Statement
4. JCAE Print, "Selected Materials on Environmental Effects of Producing Electric Power"
5. Dr. Beck's Speech

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FROM Rep. Delbert L. Latta (Ohio)

2844

10/20/70

DATE OF DOCUMENT
10/7/70

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CCR: O'Neill

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Acknowledged _____
Interim Report _____
Final 11/15/70

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Trans ltr fm Mrs. Bruce Card, Toledo, Ohio, expressing opposition to the construction of a nuclear plant in Ottawa County.

REMARKS
Reply for signature of Dir. of Reg.

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REP. DELBERT L. LATTA (OHIO)

10/7/70

10/12/70

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THE NUCLEAR PLANT WHICH IS TO BE BUILT IN OTTAWA COUNTY
IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE

PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:
 CHAIRMAN DIV./OFFICE DIRECTOR
 GENERAL MANAGER DIR. OF REG.
 ASST. GENERAL MANAGER

ENCLOSURES ORIG. OF LTR FM MRS. CARD TO LATTA DTD 9/21/70

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