

FEB 27 1973

Honorable Robert Taft, Jr.
United States Senate

Dear Senator Taft:

Your letter of February 6, 1973, to the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, enclosing a letter from Ms. Kathy Kearns concerning the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant and the safety of nuclear reactors, has been referred to me for reply.

As you know, the civilian nuclear power industry has an impressive safety record. President Nixon pointed this out in his Clean Energy Message of last year in which he stated, "... the safety record of civilian power reactors in this country is extraordinary in the history of technological advances. For more than a quarter century -- since the first nuclear chain reaction took place -- no member of the public has been injured by the failure of a reactor or by an accidental release of radioactivity."

The industry's safety record is due in large part to the defense-in-depth concept applied to the construction and operation of nuclear power plants. This involves high quality materials and workmanship, and safety systems designed both to prevent serious accidents and to limit the consequences in the small chance that they occur. The safety features built into reactors are redundant which means that in the remote event one system fails to function properly, one of the backup systems would be activated.

In dealing with a technology as complex as that for nuclear power reactors, it can be expected that technical and scientific questions on which viewpoints differ will be raised. However, Congress has established a regulatory program which assures careful and knowledgeable consideration of these matters, a program which provides not only for comprehensive continuing review by a Government agency with expertise in the technology, but also for a hearing process wherein the views of the interested public can be considered in making safety decisions.

8008050 992 u

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

TO:

JM

REPLY FOR _____ 's SIGNATURE

REPLY FOR SIGNATURE BY: GM _____ DR _____

FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING

FOR INFORMATION: GM DR _____ COMMISSIONERS _____

REMARKS:

Reg

A. W. JACKSON
For the Chairman

PLEASE SEND TWO COPIES OF REPLY TO OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

ROBERT TAFT, JR.
OHIO



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 6, 1973

Director
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Director:

I am enclosing a communication from the constituent, Ms. Kathy Kearns and I would appreciate any information you may provide on this matter.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rob Taft Jr".

Robert Taft, Jr.

Rec'd Off. Dir. of Reg.
Date _____
Time _____

-R- 305

SEN. ROBERT TAFT, JR.
RECEIVED
FEB 1 1973
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

January 28, 1973

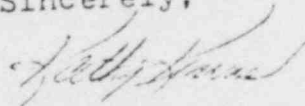
Senator Taft
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Taft:

Recently, I have been reading about the building of a nuclear power plant in Port Clinton, Ohio. In one article that I read, it stated that if an accident occurred at the site it could possibly destroy a square area of one hundred miles. This is a frightening thought. I would like to know what federal regulations are imposed on the building and operations of a nuclear power plant.

I would appreciate any information that you could provide me with. Also if you know of any person that I could write for more information about this subject. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,



Kathy Kearns
248 Dunbar-Marshman
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403