

Will Fantle
1231 Ferry St.
LaCrosse, Wis. 54601

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3/20/80

Dear Mr. Denton,

I am writing to you to express my extreme displeasure and unhappiness with the manner in which Dairyland Power Cooperative conceals important information from interested members of the public when making crucial decisions on the operation of the LaCrosse Boiling Water Reactor. Since moving back to the community I was born in, I have been working with a group known as the Coulee Region Energy Coalition (CREC). CREC has had extensive involvement and dealings with the NRC and Dairyland Power while researching the workings of the LaCrosse Boiling Water Reactor (LACBWR).

Dairyland Power has consistently sought to remove and exclude the input of CREC's concerns with LACBWR. One of the more flagrant and recent examples of this was the cancellation of a meeting between NRC staff and Dairyland officials, by Dairyland, upon learning that CREC members planned to attend the meeting in Washington, DC. And when the CREC members arrived from their long journey by car, they found an empty meeting room. I believe you have been informed of this incident previously by letter.

My letter, though, is concerned with a more recent abuse of the public trust by Dairyland Power - and an abuse pertaining to the ongoing operation of the LACBWR. CREC has repeatedly asked Dairyland to include them on the service list for any letters sent to the NRC regarding the LACBWR. Yet Dairyland does not do so. CREC has asked the NRC for help, but nothing happens.

On January 17, Dairyland sent a letter to the NRC requesting permission for "interim relief from technical specification limits." In the request, Dairyland asked to be able to extend the maximum average exposure to fuel assemblies beyond the NRC imposed limit of 15,000 MWD/MTU. And why is this important to us? I am not sure of the extent of your knowledge about the LACBWR, but the 15,000 MWD/MTU limits were imposed because of previous "gross failures" in fuel assemblies at the

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LACBWR. These failures led to the shutdown of the plant for many months with portions of the fuel assemblies still unaccounted for in the reactor core. This "incident" also helped lead to the formation of CREC.

Needless to say, CREC would have desired the opportunity to comment on the request by Dairyland for "interim relief" from the tech spec's. Our knowledge of the request, though, did not occur until after the NRC had made its decision. I personally was not aware of the matter until examining public documents in the LaCrosse Public Library last week, it was there that I came across the letter from Dairyland to the NRC, dated January 17.

Unfortunately, Wisconsin laws do not provide for the regulation of electric cooperatives. Thus, our regulatory line of defense from abuses rests with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Dairyland's desire to exclude interested members of the public from participation in the decisions and affairs of the LACBWR can not continue to go unchecked, myself and others desire to have the opportunity for meaningful participation. I ask that, as one remedy, you immediately order all correspondence from Dairyland Power to the NRC to include concerned members of the public, to include them on a service list.

Sincerely,

Will Fautle

cc: Sen. William Proxmire
Sen. Gaylord Nelson
Rep. Alvin Baldus

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