

TERA

JUN 26 1980

Docket No. 50-155

Mr. Don Jadwin
214 Bay Street
Charlevoix, Michigan 49720

Dear Mr. Jadwin:

Your letter dated April 24, 1980 posed several questions regarding the proposed expansion of the Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant spent fuel pool. First, you question whether any authority in Government can restrain Consumers Power Company from increasing the presently set limit of 194 bundles of spent nuclear fuel at the Big Rock Point facility.

The NRC regulations permit a licensee of a nuclear power plant to propose modifications to his facility. The proposed modifications to the facility are reviewed by the NRC and a Safety Evaluation is prepared that assesses the effect of the proposed facility modifications on the health and safety of the public. The effect of the modifications on the quality of the human environment is also assessed by the NRC. The NRC is presently reviewing the proposed Big Rock Point modifications related to the expansion of spent fuel pool storage capacity and will publish our conclusions and their basis at the completion of the review. These documents will be submitted to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) and they will serve as the principal NRC staff testimony. The ASLB will consider this and other evidence, including the evidence presented by the intervenors and licensee and will make a finding that will, in essence, either approve or disapprove the proposed modifications. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board or the Commission itself may alter the findings of the ASLB.

Your letter also questioned why the Federal Government cannot find a safe place for Consumers Power Company to move the spent fuel away from the Big Rock Point site. The Department of Energy has a major effort underway to select a suitable storage location for spent fuel from commercial reactors. However, it is not expected that this effort will be completed prior to the time that the current Big Rock Point fuel pool will reach its storage capacity.

OFFICE					
SURNAME	8007140	236			
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Your letter also asks whether we can provide assurance to the people living within five miles of the Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant that the plant is a safe, healthy place to live by. The Big Rock Point plant, as is the case with all other operating plants, has implemented modifications derived from lessons learned from the Three Mile Island Unit-2 accident last year. These modifications are judged to provide substantial additional protection to the health and safety of the public. In addition, the Big Rock Point plant is being reviewed in our Systematic Evaluation Program (SEP) which evaluates the design margins in selected areas of older plants using current criteria. We believe that these steps will assure continued adequate protection of the health and safety of the local residents.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
 Dennis M. Crutchfield, Chief
 Operating Reactors Branch #5
 Division of Licensing

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Sincerely,

Dennis M. Crutchfield, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #5
Division of Licensing

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