

Honorable Philip A. Hart
Committee on Commerce
United States Senate

Dear Senator Hart:

This is in response to your letter of May 18, 1971, concerning the interrogatories of the Saginaw Valley Nuclear Study Group that have been served on the AEC regulatory staff in the Midland Plant construction permit proceeding. Your letter inquires in particular as to the status of the staff's reply to these interrogatories.

As you have noted, the interrogatories exceed 300 in number. (The exact number is 336.) In formal objections filed with the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, the staff has requested that the interrogatories be disallowed on various grounds, including the undue burden that would be placed on the staff, and a failure on the part of the Saginaw Valley Nuclear Study Group to make an adequate showing of need for the information involved. In oral and written presentations to the Board, the staff's position with respect to these interrogatories has been supported by the applicant, Consumers Power Company, and by the Dow Chemical Company, another intervenor in the proceeding.

The presiding Board has not yet entered a final order ruling on the staff's objections. By three interim orders, however, the Board has directed the staff to respond, subject to some limitations, to twenty-one of the interrogatories. The staff is preparing answers in accordance with the Board's interim orders.

If you desire any additional information about this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

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Robert O'Neill, Director
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