



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

Docket Nos. 50-329
50-330

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
POOR QUALITY PAGES

Honorable Elford Cederberg
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Cederberg:

Your letter of March 19, 1976, to Chairman Anders, which enclosed the March 8, 1976, letter from Ms. Mary Sinclair of Midland, Michigan, regarding the Midland Plant Units 1 and 2, has been referred to me for reply. Ms. Sinclair expressed her concern regarding the design of the Midland Plant in light of the fire which occurred a year ago at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, and the allegations made recently by three engineers who resigned their positions with the General Electric Company. Specifically, Ms. Sinclair requested blueprints of the electrical circuitry for the Midland Plant.

Preliminary layout drawings and schematics for the electrical circuitry for the Midland Plant are included in Chapter 7 of the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report for the Midland Plant. This report is available for examination in the Local Public Document Room established at the Grace Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Road, in the City of Midland, Michigan. We do not have final design drawings for the Midland Plant electrical and instrumentation circuitry at this time. Such drawings will be submitted by the applicant in conjunction with our review of the Final Safety Analysis Report for the plant, now tentatively scheduled for submittal during the summer of 1977. These drawings will be available for Ms. Sinclair and her engineers to review at that time.

As Ms. Sinclair pointed out in her letter, the Browns Ferry fire did reveal some deficiencies in the design of the Browns Ferry units. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission established a Special Study Group within a few days after the Browns Ferry fire to examine the circumstances surrounding the fire and to make recommendations to the Commission for possible improvements. The results of the Special Study Group's effort were published in February 1976 as a document entitled, "Recommendations Related to Browns Ferry Fire," document number NUREG-0050. A copy of this document has been forwarded to all Local Public Document Rooms and Ms. Sinclair may examine the report at the Grace Dow Memorial Library if she desires. Should Ms. Sinclair wish to obtain her own personal copy of the report, it is available from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. The cost for a printed copy is \$5.00, but a microfiche copy may be obtained for \$2.25.

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Basically, the report of the Special Study Group concludes that the probability of disruptive fires of the magnitude of the Browns Ferry fire is quite small. The report does recognize that improvements can be made in fire protection for nuclear plants, however, and recommendations are made for additional efforts in the areas of fire prevention and fire control, and for design measures to limit the potential consequences of fires. In this connection, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been reviewing its criteria for fire protection for nuclear plants and, in the near future, we expect that revised criteria will be issued. The proposed design of the Midland Plant will be reviewed in light of those revised criteria and such alterations or improvements in the design as may be indicated to obtain improved fire prevention, fire control, and consequence limiting layout will be made. Actions taken in this regard will be made a part of the public record and will be available for Ms. Sinclair's inspection in the Local Public Document Room in Midland, Michigan.

The allegations regarding nuclear plant safety made by the three engineers who resigned from the General Electric Company, as well as those made by the engineer who resigned from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, have been the subject of public hearings held by the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. Each allegation has been examined in depth by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and each has been responded to on the public record. A complete copy of all the allegations and the results of the staff investigation of each has been forwarded to the Local Public Document Room in Midland. These documents are available for study by Ms. Sinclair. In essence, while the "revelations" alleged by these four individuals made great press copy, no substantive issue was raised of which the staff and the industry had not been aware.

We recognize that nuclear plant designs are not perfect in the sense that they guarantee absolute safety. Absolute safety probably is unattainable just as other affairs of life cannot be guaranteed with absolute assurance. Nonetheless, the present designs of nuclear plants are "safe" in the ordinarily accepted meaning of the word. The concerns raised by those individuals who resigned are largely in the realm of matters whose resolution might make an incremental improvement to plant safety. If it is determined that changes are necessary to assure that the public is not exposed to any undue risk, such changes will be applied to the Midland Plant, just as to other nuclear plant designs.

I cannot address specifically Ms. Sinclair's allegation that Mr. John Harris has "deliberately lied" about the siting of the Midland Plant since she has not identified any specifics. However, I can assure you and Ms. Sinclair that, while she may not agree with decisions that have been made, such matters have been handled in accordance with the regulations under which we operate and in what we considered was the public interest. Should Ms. Sinclair have specific matters she wishes us to investigate in this regard, I would be pleased to initiate such an investigation, but I must first have some details with which to work.

I trust that this information will enable you to provide a responsive reply to Ms. Sinclair.

Sincerely,

Lee V. Gossick
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:

Letter from Ms. Sinclair
to Honorable Elford
Cederberg, U.S. House
of Representatives

Distribution:
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~~Christmann Anderson~~

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OFFICE	AD/LWR <i>7/1</i>	D:DPH	DD:NRR	D:NRR	EDO	CCA
SURNAME	RCBYoung	RSBoyd	EGCase	BCBusche	LVGossick	
DATE	3/30/76	3/ 176	3/ 176	3/ 176	3/ 176	3/ 17

FROM: Rep. Elford A. Cederberg		ACTION CONTROL	DATE	CONTROL NO. / 00075	
		COMPL DEADLINE	4/15/76	DATE OF DOCUMENT	
		ACKNOWLEDGMENT		3/19/76	
		INTERIM REPLY		PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:	
TO: Chairman Anders		FINAL REPLY		<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN	
		FILE LOCATION		<input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
				OTHER: Mark Loosley	
DESCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER			SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS		
Send for the Navy Sinclair concerning the electrical design at the Midland plant encs: copy ltr of resignation of GS engineers, press release & news clipping			L7807		
CLASSIFIED DATA					
DOCUMENT/COPY NO.		CLASSIFICATION			
NUMBER OF PAGES		CATEGORY			SECT 76-1463
POSTAL REGISTRY NO.		<input type="checkbox"/> NSI <input type="checkbox"/> RD <input type="checkbox"/> FRD			
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ADDEND	3/11/76	Case	ASSIGNED TO:	NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY:	
		Secret Files 76-110		<input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRES BR	
		Case		EXT.	
				COMMENTS, NOTIFY:	
				EXT.	
				JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

No. 76- 1463 Logging Date 3/19

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO: Commissioner _____ Date _____
 Exec. Dir./Oper. _____ Gen. Counsel _____
 Cong. Liaison _____ Solicitor _____
 Public Affairs _____ Secretary _____

Incoming: Elford A. Cederberg, H.R.
 From: _____

To: Chairman Anders Date 3/19
 Subject: Enclosing constituent correspondence
expressing concern over the electrical design
at Midland nuclear power plant.

- Prepare reply for signature of.
- Chairman
 - Commissioner _____
 - EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY SUSPENSE: April 5
 - Signature block omitted
 - _____
 - Return original of incoming with response

- For direct reply*
- For appropriate action
- For information
- For recommendation

Rec'd Off. Dir. _____
 Date 3/23/76
 Time 9:15

Remarks: Cy of incoming to Chairman Anders, OGC,
OCA, PE. OCA to acknowledge. PA

n RF _____
 For the Commission: White

*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Mail Facility