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Kerr, SF

MAY 25 1982

EC ATT

The Honorable Tom Concoran  
United States House of  
Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Concoran:

I am pleased to respond to your letter of May 11, 1982 concerning Commonwealth Edison's LaSalle County Nuclear Generating Stations 1 and 2 and the Draft Environmental Statement (DES) related to Kerr-McGee Corporation's Rare Earths Facility in West Chicago, Illinois.

Regarding the status of La Salle Unit 1, fuel loading was completed on April 28, 1982, and the schedule calls for completion of the zero power testing by about June 23, 1982. During this time, there will be preliminary startup activities going on. As we indicated in our response to the Attorney General of Illinois Petition, we are allowing the licensee to proceed to zero power testing because there is no significant threat to the health and safety of the public represented by a core that has not experienced operation beyond zero power testing.

On May 3, 1982, the Attorney General of Illinois filed an Amendment to its Petition incorporating further allegations that have been filed by Ms. Bridget Little Rorem and Illinois Friends of the Earth. In this latter Petition, two of the four affiants wish to have their identities kept confidential. Enclosure 1 is a copy of the Amendment to Request for Show Cause Proceeding filed by the Attorney General of Illinois. We are currently investigating all these allegations and we expect to complete our investigations on all allegations in the next 30 to 60 days. With respect to the new allegations, we have arrived at the same conclusions as stated above for the initial allegations: that the licensee can proceed to zero power testing.

Following completion of the NRC staff review of the matters raised by these Petitions, we will issue decisions with regard to them. I will advise you of these decisions as soon as they become available.

With respect to the Kerr-McGee West Chicago facility, the DES (Enclosure 2) was received from the printer on May 13, 1982, and is being transmitted

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to the appropriate federal, state and local agencies as well as interested members of the public. Enclosure 3 is the list of persons to whom the document is being transmitted, and Enclosure 4 is a copy of the letter accompanying the document. Enclosure 5 is the Federal Register Notice, published May 20, 1982 (47 FR 21943), announcing the availability of the DES. Enclosure 6 is a copy of the NRC press release on the same subject.

Two hundred copies of the DES have been sent to the Local Public Document Room in West Chicago for public use. Since the staff anticipates considerable public interest in the document, we plan to hold a public informational meeting to answer any questions concerning the document. We will send you a copy of the announcement that we make concerning this meeting.

We have sent a copy of the DES also to Senators Dixon and Percy and to Congressmen Erlenborn and Udall.

Please let me know if you desire additional information on these subjects.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Amendment to Request for Show Cause Proceeding
2. Draft Environmental Statement
3. Addressee list
4. Transmittal letter
5. Federal Register Notice
6. NRC Press Release

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