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July 23, 1980

Mr. Joseph Felton  
Freedom of Information Officer  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT REQUEST

FOIA-80-386

REC'D 7-24-80

Subject: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Dear Mr. Felton:

On behalf of Concerned Citizens of Rhode Island (CCRI), I request access to and copies of the agency records identified below, as provided by the Freedom of Information Act and 10 CFR Part 9. These documents are all related to the United Nuclear Corporation scrap recovery plant at Wood River Junction, Rhode-Island. In the interest of simplifying and expediting your response to this request, I have forwarded a copy of this letter to Mr. W.T. Crow, of the Uranium Process Licensing Section, whom I understand to be the NRC official directly responsible for matters related to this UNC facility.

We request copies of the following agency records. Please interpret the term "documents" to encompass any written materials in the files of the NRC, including correspondence, internal memoranda, minutes of conversations and meetings, and other writings, whether typed or handwritten.

1. All documents related to the burial of radioactive wastes of any kind at the UNC facility in Wood River Junction, Rhode Island. This request is triggered by the recent discovery of a radioactive waste burial marker at the facility and by the fact that the NRC apparently was not aware of the burial. The request encompasses in particular documents related to any requests for permission to bury radioactive wastes at the site, any reports of actual burials, whether permitted or not, and any discussions concerning actions to be taken by the NRC with respect to radioactive waste burials at the site, either now or in the future.
2. All documents related to the possibility that Strontium 90 is present at the UNC facility, either as a soil or groundwater contaminant, or

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in any other form. This request encompasses in particular any documents related to requests for permission to handle or store Strontium 90 or other fission products at the facility. It also encompasses any records of Strontium 90 being present at the site from any source, including the fatal chain reaction accident that occurred in 1964.

3. All documents related to the receipt by the UNC facility of fuel for or from a "zero power reactor." The receipt of such fuel was discussed by UNC representatives at a public meeting in Charlestown, Rhode Island, on July 8, 1980. The documents requested include any that identify the source of the fuel, the design and other characteristics of the "zero power reactor, the design and other characteristics of the fuel, the dates on which the fuel was received at the UNC facility, and the ultimate disposition of the fuel.
4. All documents related to the disposition of the nuclear material that was involved in the fatal chain reaction accident that occurred at the UNC facility in 1964, and of any containers or materials that were contaminated as a result of that accident.

Since CCRI is a citizens organization that relies on dues and contributions for support, I request that you waive any search or copying fees that would otherwise apply. In support of that request, I submit the following information, as required by 10 CFR 9.14a(c):

1. The information contained in the records and any conclusions by CCRI will be made available to the public through press releases and public meetings. It will also be provided to responsible local officials. In addition, it will be available to the public upon request.
2. The public that will be benefitted by the request includes at least the entire population of Charlestown, Rhode Island, if not the population of the entire state, whose safety and peace of mind depends upon the prompt and safe resolution of safety problems recently identified at the UNC facility.

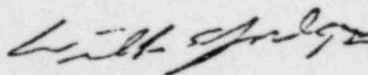
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3. The tangible benefit to be derived from dissemination of the information will be a thoroughly aware community that will be able to judge for itself the situation at the UNC facility. This will be a substantial improvement over the current lack of information and sense of imminent or potential health hazard.
4. CCRI will receive no financial benefit from receipt or use of the requested materials.
5. Any unnecessary cost is a strain on CCRI's resources, but it could probably afford a minimal amount in the range of \$25.00.
6. The information will be used to assure that the public and local and state officials are fully informed about safety issues so that they can participate effectively in NRC and other agency efforts to remove recently identified safety hazards.

Thank you for your assistance. I request and look forward to your response within the statutory 10 day time limit.

Sincerely,



William S. Jordan, III

WSJ/lc