

5711 Summerset Drive  
Midland, Michigan 48640  
June 26, 1974

Mr. L. Manning Muntzing  
Director of Regulation  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20000

Dear Mr. Muntzing:

In April, 1973, the AEC Regulatory Staff had readied new and more conservative siting guidelines for nuclear power plants based on new safety research considerations. This report has finally been published.

According to these new criteria, the Midland nuclear plants would not be considered safe. Many of the people of Midland are wondering what your obligations, as Director of Licensing, are to this problem.

I, personally, also wonder if you have really thought about the genuine concerns that growing numbers of well-informed and well-educated private citizens have about the current development of nuclear power. I would like to list them for you:

1) The unresolved questions of nuclear safety which were brought out primarily during the national safety hearings. These issues have by no means been resolved and, in fact, a recent (1973) AEC Task Force that inspected the record of operating reactors stated that n-plants now operating are "besieged" by malfunctions and that the level of risk cannot be determined at present.

2) The lack of a satisfactory disposal site for high-level, highly toxic wastes which will last for many thousands of years. Stating the amount of space that a solidified mass of this waste will require, as Dixie Lee Ray repeatedly states to TV and other audiences, does not explain the fact that the more than 80 million gallons of wastes from the weapons program at Hanford, Washington and Savannah, Georgia have not been solidified or safely stored at all. In fact hundreds of thousands of gallons of these wastes have been allowed to leak accidentally to the soil. Furthermore, the fact that highly toxic plutonium (with a 24,000 year half-life) will inevitably be lost into the environment at most stages of the fuel cycle even under "safe" handling conditions is not taken into account in this statement. Some of the attached news items indicate what has already been happening.

3) The possibility of diversion of plutonium to sub-national groups who could make crude atomic bombs as a means of

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blackmail of entire cities.

4) The lack of adequate insurance coverage for the millions of home-owners who will be close to reactors now being built and planned because of the limits on liability established in the Price-Anderson Act. Also, every home-owner's insurance policy carries a nuclear exclusion clause, and it becomes an important social question whether we wish to proliferate technologies that are uninsurable.

5) The total energy input into the whole uranium fuel cycle from mining to milling and fuel enrichment before the fuel gets to a reactor and the transportation of spent fuel, fuel processing and waste disposal problems after it leaves the n-plant shows very little increment of power for this extensive and irretrievable use of land and resources.

6) The questions of reliability of the large-sized n-plants are being raised all over the country. The Palisades experience in Michigan has been very bad. It has operated only 5 months since it received its full power license in December, 1972. It has had excessive radioactive accidental releases. It is also costing \$7,000,000 a month to purchase the electricity it should be producing, in addition to the repairs. Other plants in other states are also having difficulties.

7) Perhaps the most grave problem is the fact that the large-sized plants placed close to our major population centers are a threat to national security over which we have no defense. They can be sabotaged externally by damaging the cold water intake pipes and pumps.

Far from being uninformed and ignorant, the critics of current nuclear power include some of the world's and nation's most competent scientists and lawyers, such as:

1) The Rand Corporation (a group of independent scientist/consultants of national reputation) advised the California Legislature to explore all other alternatives and only use nuclear as a last resort because of the unresolved safety and waste disposal issues.

2) Seven U. S. Nobel prize-winners in genetics, chemistry, physics and biology have taken a position against nuclear fission power.

3) The Pugwash Conference, a group of 100 top scientists from around the world have taken a firm position at their annual meeting in 1973 against the proliferation of nuclear fission power in the world because of its public health and safety hazards and lack of adequate solutions for high-level waste disposal.

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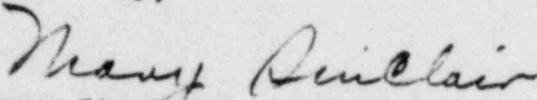
4) The Union of Concerned Scientists, an MIT-Harvard based group of scientists, have made an independent analysis of the safety system in current nuclear technology and concluded that the margins of safety that were supposed to exist do not exist at all.

5) Scientists Institute for Public Information, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, and consumer organizations such as Ralph Nader's group, have filed numerous legal suits to challenge the responsibility of the AEC in various aspects of current nuclear development.

Recently, at the request of the House Speaker of the Michigan Legislature, William A. Ryan, I drafted a proposal for a basis for fact-finding on nuclear power for the Michigan Legislature. Speaker Ryan asked for a proposal that reflected all sides of the nuclear issues and he is prepared to fund it. A copy is enclosed for your thoughtful consideration.

I believe these matters deserve your most careful attention.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Sinclair, Member  
Board of Directors  
National Intervenors

sjh

Cc: Dr. Theodore Taylor  
Clifford Beck, AEC  
Senator Philip Hart  
Senator Robert Griffin