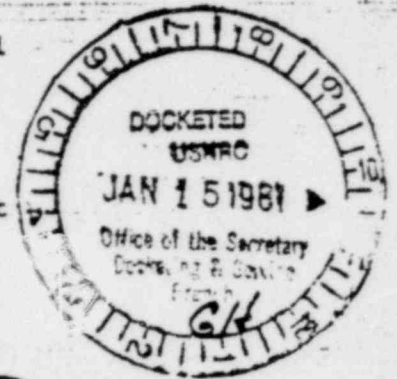


From: Richard E. Fenske
635 Forest Avenue
Oak Park; Il. 60302
312/386-4701

Date: January 11, 1981

To : John F. Ahearne
Chairperson
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington; D.C. 20555

Re : Dresden Flushout



DOCKET NUMBER 50-10
PROD. & UTIL FAC...

dear Mr. Ahearne;

I'm not kidding myself, the proposed "Dresden flushout" is not safe. I say this with respect to some elements of the surrounding circumstances at Dresden to date.

- Dresden reactor #1 is located 50 miles southwest of downtown Chicago and less for the surrounding Chicagoland area.
- There is danger that the corrosive solvent used may weaken the plant's piping and precipitate subsequent cracks and leaks upon restarting Dresden reactor #1. (It's common knowledge that automobiles corrode faster in the salted street environment of cities and have a shortened life expectancy as a result.)
- The "chelating agent" in the used solvent contaminated with radioactivity will lend itself to rapid release into the environment wherever it's disposed of.
- Approximately 85,000 gallons of this solvent will be involved.
- The "flushout" is experimental on too large a scale at the risk of too many when other cheaper, cleaner etc. forms of energy production are available.

It seems as though the shift in thinking by the people of the U. S., towards a more efficient use of fossil fuels, might extend to other forms of energy as well. As I reflect, people didn't start thinking about fuel efficiency until they really had to. And that makes sense to me; after all, the human body doesn't rise to its defenses until it's stimulated with a dose of the actual contaminant via inoculation.

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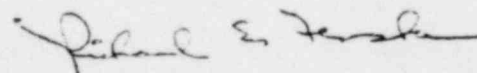
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I think this losing situation may be turned into a real winner; if the people did without a little electricity / paid more for a lesser supply, the same sort of fuel efficient thinking may be directed towards electrical energy production. Weren't other forms of engine fuel considered and weren't more fuel efficient engines utilized for automobiles? Couldn't fuel rods, coal, solar sources etc. be analogous to leaded gasoline, diesel fuel, gasohol etc. and couldn't reactors, steam turbines, solar cells etc. be likened to the diesel, turbine, conventional fuel-injected engines of varying efficiency?

I don't think Commonwealth Edison should be allowed to continue salvage attempts at Dresden reactor #1 until a full Public Hearing is held. I do think such a hearing would reveal similar thinking to mine.

I find the "Three Mile Island" incident serving as the inoculation that has started my thinking along these lines. As far back as I can remember, I've never had to be inoculated for the same thing twice.

thoughtfully,



Richard E. Fenske

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