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MAY 13 1983

Lone Tree Council
ATTN: Mr. Leo R. Romo
Corresponding Secretary
P. O. Box 421
Essexville, MI 48732

Dear Mr. Romo:

This is in response to the Lone Tree Council's letters of April 21, 1983 to Chairman Palladino, D. G. Eisenhut, and me regarding reinspections and independent audits to identify problems at the Midland Nuclear Power Plant.

During the public meeting in Midland on February 8, 1983, between the NRC and Consumers Power Company, the licensee described its proposed Construction Completion Program which is designed to identify and correct past deficiencies at the plant while establishing a program for future construction. The Construction Completion Program will include two independent thirdparty firms. On May 3, 1983, the NRC staff approved TERA Corporation to perform an independent review of the design and construction of the Auxiliary Feedwater System. The NRC is still reviewing Consumers Power Company's proposal to have TERA review the design and construction of part of the emergency power system and part of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system. The second independent third-party will overview the Construction Completion Program, including the licensee's reinspections. Consumers Power Company has proposed Stone and Webster Engineering Company to conduct this overview and the NRC is currently reviewing the acceptability of this proposal.

Although separate from the Construction Completion Program, Consumers Power has also employed Stone and Webster to overview the remedial work on the soil settlement problems at Midland. The NRC has approved Stone and Webster for this overview.

We believe that the plans for these third party inspections are appropriate and sufficient at this time.

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As a point of clarification, the NRC has not ordered a reinspection at Midland. That is a voluntary commitment made by the licensee as part of their Construction Completion Program.

We disagree with your position that letting Consumers Power Company reinspect their own work makes a mockery of the NRC's commitment to ensuring safe construction, particularly in view of the third party inspections and other actions being taken under the CCP to improve performance. Furthermore, the NRC will be inspecting this effort.

I trust that this has been responsive to your comments. If you have any further comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Original signed by
James G. Keppler

James G. Keppler
Regional Administrator

cc: V. Stello, EDO
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R. DeYoung, NRR
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