

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 14, 1990

Mr. Dennis Rathbun, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
The United States Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20555

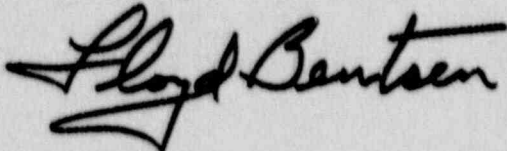
Dear Mr. Rathbun:

With regard to our previous correspondence concerning the Comanche Peak nuclear power plant, I am enclosing a copy of an additional letter I have received from Mr. Kendall McCook of Tolar, Texas on this issue.

I would appreciate your thorough review of these additional concerns, and any pertinent information you could provide would be helpful.

Thank you for your assistance, and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Bentsen

Enclosure

PLEASE REPLY TO:

961 Federal Building  
Austin, Texas 78701

Kendall McCook  
Rt. 1 Box 70  
Tolar, TX 76476  
30 January 1990

Senator Bentsen  
U.S. Senate

Senator Bentsen,

I am acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated 26 January. Included was a January 22nd response by James Taylor, Executive Director for Operations at the N.R.C. When Mr. Taylor says "the issues can be resolved in a reasonable period of time," Mr. Taylor denies some very dangerous difficulties at Comanche Peak.

Today, 30 January, CFUR is supposed to receive the report from our December 7th concerns. We are possibly three days from the license at Comanche Peak being granted, and we have too little time to deal with problems serious enough that even as late as January 26th (four days after the last inspection team arrived at the plant). Fines are still being levied for check valve violations and cover-ups that to this day continue. (He enclosed news article)

The last complete and operational test of these valves occurred during Hot Functional Testing on May 4, 1989. Thousands of gallons of boiling water damaged service pipe and caused one support to collapse, as the direct result of the valve problems. Texas Utilities did not even report the incident.

In the enclosed Star Telegram article, Dennis Crutchfield, associate director of the regulatory commission's special projects division, "warned the utility in his letter that an operating license for Unit 1 would not be issued until the commission evaluates 'the effectiveness of your corrections.'"

Those corrections must not be tested after fuel load, when radioactive contamination might occur. CFUR believes another Hot Functional Test of the valves must take place -- without radioactive threat.

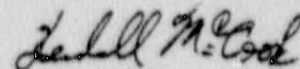
I pray you will read this letter carefully. The fate of my neighbors and my friends and my family is in your hands. I repeat, once again, that abundant natural gas supplies from here to far West Texas could produce all the energy even a growing economy would need. Once nuclear generation occurs at Comanche Peak, that safe, clean source of electricity would be lost that Texas Utility site.

We need public hearings about the dangers at Comanche Peak. I have recently spoken with a man who characterizes the drug abuse and terrible working conditions at the plant. Drugged welders working 94 hours a week. Jean Davis has identified himself and offers the names of others who want to testify about their terrible experiences with helping build the plant. The last opportunity for adversarial investigation into plant construction came in 1983. Since that time, for one reason or another, hearings were suspended

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until CASE received \$4.5 million in July, 1988, thereby ending the possibility of any further public hearings. For seven years, operations at the plant have been outside citizen scrutiny. Only CASE, now paid by Texas Utilities, stands between T.U. and the licensing of an unsafe plant. They have signed a secret agreement which forbids them from participating in Atomic License Board hearings.

I wish you well,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kendall McCook".

Kendall McCook