

TO THE BOARD OF THE NUCLEAR (175)
REGULATORY COMMISSION, I WOULD
LIKE TO THANK ^{REB 24} THEM FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THIS MEETING.

72 (57FR28645) ALSO I WOULD LIKE TO THANK
ATTORNEY GENERAL FRANK KELLY
FOR HIS CONTINUED EFFORTS TO PUSH
FOR A FULL & FORMAL HEARING.

THE QUESTION TODAY IS DO YOU ALLOW
FOR THE STORAGE OF NUCLEAR FUEL RODS
IN CASKS DESIGNED FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE,
AND TAKE THE CHANCE THAT THEY DONT
END UP AS PERMANANT STORAGE? A
MERE 150 YARDS FROM THE SHORELINE
OF LAKE MICHIGAN.

THIS SHOULD NOT BE AN ADVERSARIAL PROCESS
WE SHOULD WHOLE HEARTEDLY OPEN THIS TO
A FULL EXAMINATION OF THE FACTS. SO
THAT WE EXHAUST ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR
MISTAKES. ALSO, IT WOULD SHOW GOOD
FAITH ON THE PART OF THE NUCLEAR
REGULATORY COMMISSION AND CONSUMERS
POWER TOWARD THE PUBLIC.

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PDR PR
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OF THE MANY QUESTIONS TO BE
~~ANSWERED~~ ANSWERED HERE, MOST IMPORTANT
ARE ;

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QUESTION #1

WHY IS THERE NO MONITORING SYSTEM?
NO WAY TO TELL IF THE TEMPERATURES
INSIDE OF THE CASKS ARE APPROACHING
ACCIDENT LEVELS. NO MONITORS TO TELL
IF THE HELIUM HAS LEAKED. AND
ALSO, NO WAY TO TELL IF THE RODS
ON THE INSIDE ARE STILL INTACT.

QUESTION #2)

WHY USE HELIUM FOR STORAGE.
CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THE ONLY
NUCLEAR POWER FACILITY TO USE HELIUM
TO COOL ITS ~~ATOMIC~~ REACTOR, WAS THE
FORT ST. VRAIN, COLORADO PLANT WHICH
WAS LICENSED FOR 40 YEARS, BUT
WAS OPENED FOR ONLY 10 YEARS. AND
DURING THAT TIME IT HAS BEEN CALCULATED
THAT IT WAS OPERATIONAL ONLY 15%
OF THE TIME. ~~A YEAR AND A HALF'S~~
~~WORTH OF ELECTRICITY, FOR PLANT CONSTRUCTION~~
~~COST OF 224 MILLION. AND AN ESTIMATED~~
~~333 MILLION FOR DISMANTLING AND RETIREMENT.~~
~~COST.~~ → ALL BECAUSE AS UTILITY SPOKESMAN
MARK STUTZ PUT IT, "OUR NUCLEAR
PLANT DIDN'T WORK."

QUESTION #3.)

AFTER SEALING THE METAL BASKET
THAT HOUSES THE RODS BY WELDING IT

~~SHUT, AND CAPPING IT WITH CEMENT.~~
HOW SAFE IS IT GOING TO BE TO
OPEN T BACK UP, WITH NO WAY TO
TELL IF THE RODS ARE STILL INTACT?

QUESTION #4.)

WHAT ABOUT CONCERNS BY THE
ORIGINAL DESIGNERS, THAT LEAD THEM TO
DIVEST OF THEIR INTREST IN THE CASKS
DESIGN?

QUESTION #5.)

AND LAST, THE CASK IS DESIGNED
FOR STORAGE ONLY. BUT CONSUMERS POWER
OFFICALS SUGGESTED IN AN ARTICLE IN THE
NEW YORK TIMES, DEC 8TH 1992, THAT
THEY MAY USE THEM FOR TRANSPORT
LATER ON.

WITH THESE CONCERNS, AND MANY OTHERS
WE FEEL THAT THERE SHOULD BE A
HEARING, THAT WOULD ALLOW FOR MORE
INVESTIGATION INTO THE DESIGN OF THE
CASKS. AND TO MAKE SURE BEYOND
ANY DOUBT, THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE
TO RE-OPEN THE CASKS, AND REMOVE THE
RODS FOR TRANSPORT TO A PERMANANT
SITE. IF CONSUMERS IS HAPPY WITH
THIS DESIGN, THEY SHOULD WELCOME A

HEARING THAT GIVES THEM A CHANCE
TO PROVE ITS MERITS.

WHY MUST WE BE IN SUCH A HURRY
TO COMPLETE A PROCESS THAT COULD
ULTIMATELY YIELD SUCH PERMANENT, DISASTROUS RESULTS?

SOME DAY WE WILL BE JUDGED FOR
HOW WE DECIDE HERE. FUTURE GENERATIONS
WILL LOOK BACK AND SEE EITHER WE
WERE RESPONSIBLE AND PRUDENT OR THAT
WE WERE HASTY AND IRRESPONSIBLE WITH
OUR TASK. TOO QUICK TO DECIDE
THEIR FUTURES FOR THEM. FOR THE
SAKE OF THIS PLANET, AND THE MANY
GENERATIONS TO FOLLOW US. DO WE HAND
THEM OUR MISTAKES AND MISGUIDED EXAMPLES
FOR THE SAKE OF DEADLINES AND PROFIT
MARGINS, OR DO WE HAND THEM OUR
SUCCESSES, OUR KNOWLEDGE, OUR GOOD SENSE.

DO WE TAKE A CHANCE ON
CREATING ANOTHER BOPAH, INDIA.

DO WE TAKE A CHANCE ON
ANOTHER CHERNOBYL.

WE WILL NOT BE JUDGED AS INDIVIDUALS
NOT AS A POWER COMPANY
NOT AS A REGULATORY COMMISSION
NOT AS PARENTS
NOT AS ACTIVISTS
NOT AS CONCERNED CITIZENS
BUT AS ONE ~~SOCIETY~~ ^{COMMUNITY} WHO EITHER ~~STOOD~~ ^{STOOD} ~~COMMUNITY~~
3Y AND LET THIS HAPPEN. OR AS A ~~SOCIETY~~ ^{COMMUNITY}
THAT STOOD UP AND WAS COUNTED AND
SAID "WE WILL NOT LET THIS HAPPEN."

WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST A
FULL AND FORMAL HEARING.

THANK YOU
Nathan Jay Mercer

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