

DOCKET NUMBER *50-454*
PROD. & UTIL. FAC. *50-453*

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Docket Nos.: STN 50-454
and STN 50-455



The Honorable Charles H. Percy
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Percy:

Thank you for your request of January 29, 1982 (file number 2027150010), which forwarded the concerns of one of your constituents, Louise Howard, regarding the storage of spent fuel generated from the operation of the Byron Station.

The present storage capacity of the Byron Unit Nos. 1 and 2 spent fuel storage pool is sufficient for 10 years of operation. Unit Nos. 1 and 2 are expected to begin operation in 1984 and 1985 respectively. The Department of Energy (DOE) has projected that it will have its first geologic repository for spent fuel or high-level waste disposal in operation in the late 1990's with additional repositories following at three year intervals. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission in its Waste Confidence Rulemaking Proceeding (Docket No. PR-50, 51) is assessing its confidence in DOE's ability to provide timely disposal of spent fuel. The Commission is not considering in this proceeding whether light water power reactor fuel will be reprocessed for use in breeder reactors or for other purposes. Obviously, should the reprocessing option become available, it could provide another alternative for reducing spent fuel interim storage requirements at reactors.

Options potentially available to Commonwealth Edison for additional interim storage capacity include: (1) reracking the reactor spent fuel storage pool at the Byron site; (2) transshipment of the Byron spent fuel to other reactor sites where additional capacity may be available; (3) rod consolidation (pin compaction), i.e., disassembly of spent fuel assemblies and storage of consolidated spent fuel rods in cans in the existing rack structure (The potential storage capacity gain from this action could approach 100 percent.); (4) construction of an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) to store Byron spent fuel either on the Byron site or at another location; and (5) storage of Byron spent fuel in a federal government ISFSI (or AFR, as DOE calls it) should the government decide to accept spent fuel for interim storage. This last option appears remote since DOE has renounced its policy to provide for interim storage. However, there is still some activity aimed at providing

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The Honorable Charles H. Percy

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for such storage so the option cannot be entirely ruled out. In any case, the first four options cited are all available to Commonwealth Edison under existing NRC regulations. Utilizing one or more of them, Commonwealth Edison could provide the capacity required for interim storage of the spent fuel generated at the Byron site until disposal or reprocessing is available.

We hope this information will assist you in addressing your constituent's concerns.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T. A. Rehm

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:

Letter to Senator Percy from
Louise Howard dated 12/10/81

Percy

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 29, 1982

Mr. Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

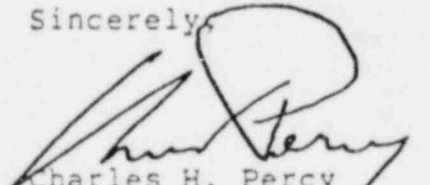
Dear Mr. Kammerer:

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, will be greatly appreciated.

Please reference our file number, 2027150010, and return the attached copy of my constituent's letter with your response.

Thank you for your assistance in this regard.

Sincerely,


Charles H. Percy
United States Senator

CHP/cc

Enclosure

REPLY TO: Office of United States
Senator Charles H. Percy
4321 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

OUR FILE: 2027150010

2/3...To EDO for Direct Reply..Suspense: Feb 22..OCA to Ack, Docket...82-89

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~~For Mr. [unclear]~~
601 Essex Circle
Lakewood, Ill. 61109

December 10, 1981

Senator Charles H. Percy
200 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Percy,

It has been called to my attention that although you see the need for nuclear power, you also are quite concerned about the safety of nuclear power plants. I, too, have concerns regarding the safety factor. It seems to me that 90% of Commonwealth Edison's time and money is tied up in the actual construction of the Byron Nuclear plant and perhaps 10% in determining the future storage problem for the spent fuel. It appears that they have high hopes of a breeder reactor to reuse the waste products, but they also admit that it may be 20-30 years in the future before the United States has a reactor in operation. Bearing in mind that they have storage for 10 years worth of spent fuel, it concerns me as to what will be done in the interim.

I ask for your support in monitoring this and other safety problems that will arise with the operation of the Byron plant. Our economic situation finds almost every industry cutting corners wherever possible. Let us hope that the necessary safety precautions do not meet with a budget axe.

Respectfully,
Laurie Leonard