

50-341

AUG 18 1982

The Honorable John D. Dingell
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

This is in response to your letter of July 19, 1982 which requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission appropriately consider the views of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners and the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Congregation during any licensing proceedings over the disposition of the Enrico Fermi 2 reactor. Attached with your letter was correspondence from Arden T. Westover of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners which forwarded a petition from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Congregation in support of a Monroe County Board resolution to convert the Fermi 2 Nuclear Plant to a non-nuclear generating plant.

The NRC staff analyzed the relative cost-benefits of Fermi 2 operation, as well as alternative energy options in Sections 7 and 9 of NUREG-0794, the Fermi 2 Final Environmental Statement. Those analyses concluded that the Fermi operation would result in significant savings in system production costs, ensure greater diversity of generating resources and improve system reliability, while resulting in acceptable levels of environmental impact. Two copies of NUREG-0794 are attached for your use.

During March and April 1982, issues pertinent to the operation of the Enrico Fermi 2 Nuclear Power Plant were heard before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, which is expected to issue its decision shortly. None of the parties to the Fermi 2 operating licensing hearings raised issues related to or similar to the Monroe County Board resolution or IHM concerns.

Subsequent to the close of the Fermi 2 hearing record, the Commission amended its regulations (47 Federal Register 12940, effective April 26, 1982) regarding the need to consider alternative power sources. The new rule bars consideration of alternative energy sources at operating license proceedings to avoid unnecessary consideration of issues that the Commission has found in its past experience are not likely to tilt the cost-benefit balance. While there are special provisions

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The Honorable John D. Dingell

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for waiver of the rule if the nuclear plant operation would entail unexpected and adverse effects or if an environmentally and economically superior alternative existed, such considerations are more appropriately heard at the construction permit stage prior to significant construction investment.

If there is any additional information I can supply you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:
NUREG-0794 (2 copies)

Last page retyped in OEDO. See previous Form 318 for concurrences*

OCA

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The Honorable John D. Dingell

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:
NUREG-0794 (2 copies)

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John D. Dingell

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William J. Dricks
Executive Director for Operations

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Honorable John D. Dingell
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

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