



SISTERS, SERVANTS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
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February 16, 1994

Ivan Selin
 Chairperson, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Selin:

Detroit Edison, operator of the Fermi II nuclear plant in Monroe, Michigan, is planning to release 1.5 million gallons of water tainted with radioactivity into Lake Erie on Thursday, February 17, 1994. The release will take place three miles from the inlet that provides tap water for the city of Monroe.

The water to be released is part of the clean-up from the December 25, 1993 accident at Fermi II. I have grave concerns about the level of radioactivity in the water, and about its long-term health effects on the citizens of Monroe. The ingestion of even low levels of radioactivity, although declared "safe" by Detroit Edison, pose a potentially dangerous threat to the community and put the public here at risk.

I am asking that the NRC move quickly to forestall the release of this tainted water until

- assurances can be given to the citizens of Monroe and the surrounding areas that their long-term health will not be threatened by ingestion of this water;
- Detroit Edison releases to the public the exact amount of radioactive content in the water and that their assessment of the amount is verified by an independent agency who declares it "safe";
- Detroit Edison gives full disclosure of the cause of the accident and publicly announces their plans to rectify the damage resulting from the accident in an ecologically safe manner;
- safety precautions at Fermi II are upgraded and their emergency plan is made public.

I also urge that your department move forward to support studies to document the health risks associated with long-term exposure to ingestion of low levels of radiation and that the results of those studies be made public as soon as possible.

I appreciate what you have done recently to de-classify and release documents relating to nuclear testing on U.S. citizens. I sincerely hope that you will help to safeguard the citizens of Southeastern Michigan by intervening before this water is released tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Dorothy McDaniel IHM

Dorothy McDaniel IHM
 President of the Congregation