

PDR



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 18, 1994

The Honorable John Glenn
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Glenn:

On behalf of the Commission, I am responding to your letter of February 16, 1994, regarding planned discharges of slightly contaminated water from the Fermi 2 nuclear plant into Lake Erie. We want to assure you that the discharges meet regulatory limits for release and that the NRC is monitoring actual discharges to ensure that the public's health and safety are protected.

With regard to the February 23, 1994 public meeting in Monroe, Michigan, that you reference in your letter, several members of the NRC Region III and headquarters staffs were in attendance, including Mr. William Axelson, Director, Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards (DRSS), Region III; Mr. Steven Orth, DRSS, Region III; Mr. Roland Lickus, Region III State Liaison Officer; Mr. Jan Strasma, Region III Senior Public Affairs Officer; and Mr. Charles Willis, NRC headquarters DRSS representative. Their function was to assist in providing information to address public questions concerning the proposed discharge.

Additionally, the staff confirmed by independent measurement preceding the first discharge that the radioactivity levels of the water in the condensate storage tank were well below the regulatory limits for release and that these results agreed with licensee and State of Michigan sample results. The results indicated that the concentrations of all radionuclides in the tank were small fractions of the 10 CFR Part 20 limits for release to unrestricted areas.

The staff monitored the actual discharge at the release point and local intake point (city of Monroe water intake) to verify that the levels remained within regulatory limits. Samples were taken at each location during and following the discharge, five at the release point and eleven at the intake. For all samples, the results indicated less than the minimum detectable activity level for each radionuclide of concern. The staff also calculated expected exposures to the general public from the normal ingestion pathway, such as drinking Monroe city water and eating fish from Lake Erie over the course of a year. In all cases, the expected doses represented very small fractions (less than 0.1 percent) of the equivalent amount of radiation expected annually from naturally occurring background sources.

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These measures verified that the releases did not pose a risk to the public health and safety or to the environment. The staff plans to perform additional confirmatory analysis of representative samples from future discharges related to the December 25, 1993 incident. These sampling plans will be coordinated with city, county, and state officials prior to any future releases of contaminated water.

We will be pleased to send you a copy of our completed inspection report documenting the results of this and future discharges when published. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Ivan Selin



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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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March 18, 1994

The Honorable Howard Metzenbaum
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Metzenbaum:

On behalf of the Commission, I am responding to your letter of February 16, 1994, regarding planned discharges of slightly contaminated water from the Fermi 2 nuclear plant into Lake Erie. We want to assure you that the discharges meet regulatory limits for release and that the NRC is monitoring actual discharges to ensure that the public's health and safety are protected.

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Ivan Selin



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March 18, 1994

The Honorable Louis Stokes
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stokes:

On behalf of the Commission, I am responding to your letter of February 16, 1994, regarding planned discharges of slightly contaminated water from the Fermi 2 nuclear plant into Lake Erie. We want to assure you that the discharges meet regulatory limits for release and that the NRC is monitoring actual discharges to ensure that the public's health and safety are protected.

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Ivan Selin



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March 18, 1994

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kaptur:

On behalf of the Commission, I am responding to your letter of February 16, 1994, regarding planned discharges of slightly contaminated water from the Fermi 2 nuclear plant into Lake Erie. We want to assure you that the discharges meet regulatory limits for release and that the NRC is monitoring actual discharges to ensure that the public's health and safety are protected.

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