

LLOYD BENTSEN  
TEXAS

COMMITTEE  
FINANCE  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
JOINT ECONOMIC  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4301

October 22, 1990

Mr. Dennis Rathbun, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
The United States Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20555

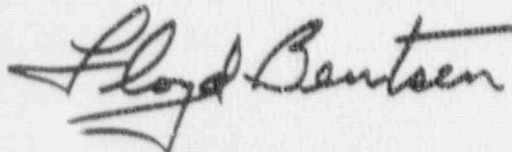
Dear Mr. Rathbun:

Mr. Bruce Moody of Bellaire, Texas has contacted me concerning the Laguna Verde nuclear power plant. A copy of this correspondence is attached for your reference.

In view of the concerns expressed by Mr. Moody, I would appreciate your thorough review of this matter. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Bentsen

Enclosure

PLEASE REPLY TO:

961 Federal Building  
Austin, Texas 78701

9101150296 901228  
PDR ORG NE ED  
PDR

Bruce Moody  
4600 Braeburn  
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Senator Lloyd Bentsen  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

September 24, 1990

Dear Senator Bentsen,

Thank you for your recent correspondence to me and my five year old daughter regarding the environment and other issues. She read the letter at her school and I think a few seeds of thought were planted.

I'm writing you today because I am concerned about the Lago~~na~~na Verde nuclear power plant, which is located on the gulf coast of Mexico. An article in the Brownsville paper stated that this power plant had 16 accidents in 12 months and each time there was an accident the plant workers simply turned up the alarm reaction mechanism "a notch or two" so as to make it less sensitive. However, in reality, that actually made each new accident more severe than the previous one. The newspaper also said that the plant had dumped at least 25 million gallons of highly radioactive water into the gulf. An NRC staffer was quoted as saying something to the effect of "if this plant goes it'll make Chernobyl look like a tiny firecracker ... effectively making life impossible from the plant to 50 miles north of Houston." This statement really got my attention.

I phoned the EPA in Washington and finally spoke with someone in the public information office who had no clue as to what I was talking about. I then phoned the NRC and talked with a man who confirmed that a staffer from the NRC had gone down to Lago~~na~~na Verde in June of this year as part of the International Atomic Agency Commission team invited by the Mexican government to check out the plant. They found that the plant's reactor was defective. In fact it was the same defective reactor that the Mexicans had purchased from Spain who gladly sold it after it had been involved in major accident there. The NRC basically told that which I already knew. The bottom line is that the plant is in Mexico and there has (amazingly) yet to be established an effective international nuclear power safety commission that carries any U.N. type influence.

I also spoke with a person at Greenpeace who informed me that Miguel Dedina at the National Nuclear Safety Commission has a good bit of info on Lagoona Verde. The phone number they gave me for Mr. Dedina is (905) 534-1401 (1404). I have never heard of this organization and I know the 905 area code is an international call.

I understand the Mexican government recently gave the Lagoona Verde plant permission to go to 100% power. Something must be done about this. I believe we are very wrong in our thinking that nuclear power is a clean, efficient cure for global warming when we have yet to find a safe place for nuclear waste. I also believe that we must vigorously pursue an energy policy that stresses renewability, efficiency and safety.

Thank you for your time and I would appreciate your findings and suggestions regarding Lago~~na~~na Verde.

Sincerely,  
Bruce Moody

