

LLOYD BENTSEN
TEXAS

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

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4301

December 11, 1990

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

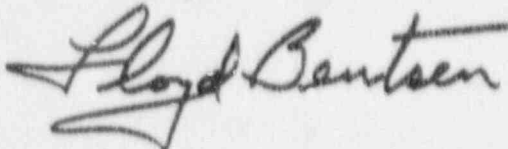
Dear Mr. Rathbun:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have received from Ms. Betty
Brink of Fort Worth, Texas.

There are many valid points raised in this letter, and I would
appreciate receiving a thorough response on these issues so that
I can properly respond to my constituent.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Bentsen

Enclosure

PLEASE REPLY TO:

961 Federal Building
Austin, Texas 78701

CFUR

CITIZENS FOR FAIR UTILITY REGULATION

P.O. BOX 1894

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

76101

November 20, 1990

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Bentsen,

I am enclosing for your review a copy of a petition CFUR filed with the Director of Nuclear Operations for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission asking that Texas Utilities show cause why its license to operate the Comanche Peak nuclear plant should not be revoked.

CFUR is concerned that seriously malfunctioning check valves are still installed at the Comanche Peak facility and continue to leak in spite of assurances by TU and the NRC to the public that these valves would be fixed and would operate safely before the plant would be licensed.

These valves have a long history of failures at Comanche Peak and, as you will see from the document I have enclosed with this letter, the manufacturer, Borg-Warner, Inc., was found to be in serious violation of several NRC regulations shortly before the Comanche Peak facility was licensed on February 9, 1990.

The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation conducted an investigation of the Borg-Warner facility in September of 1989 and issued a report on January 12, 1990. That report (enclosed here) shows that defective parts were sold to Comanche Peak and that Borg-Warner had used unqualified suppliers since 1985, continuing to use those suppliers to replace the defective valves found at Comanche Peak in 1989.

The check valves were in place when the plant was licensed and were malfunctioning, despite NRC and TU assurances to the contrary. TU assured the Commission, with the NRC and NRR directors present, in October of 1989, that the check valves would be corrected prior to licensing. Those valves were continuing to hang up after licensing and continue to leak today. None of TU's fixes have worked, and the documents which we attached to the original petition track the failures. We believe that the NRC's role in this long and well documented fiasco must be investigated. NRC and NRR personnel knew that the Borg-Warner facility was suspect, yet no one raised even a cautionary warning that the problems at Borg-Warner were directly linked to the

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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

failed check valves at Comanche Peak.

If the purpose of the Atomic Energy Act is to be fulfilled, surely the right hand of the NRC must know what the left hand is doing.

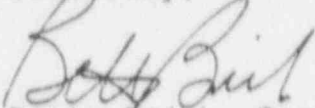
We, the members of CFUR, all residents of the counties which are close to the Comanche Peak nuclear plant (at least two families are within three miles of the plant) ask that you initiate an investigation into the role of the NRC in the issue of the Borg-Warner check valves. The January 12 report, which I am enclosing in this package to you, raises serious questions that must be answered. The other documents are all available from the NRC. Because of cost limitations, I am only sending you the January 12 report. It is the critical report and the key to what we believe may be either deliberate withholding of information to the full Commission, or terrible neglect.

The Comanche Peak plant was not operated with any degree of assurance that it is a safe plant since it was licensed. There have been ten or more shutdowns due to malfunctions, one of which was related to the check valves. And there have been at least four "unusual events" which are serious enough that the public had to be notified.

We urge you to take this seriously and to help us find answers that will guarantee that this is a safe plant or that it is not. If it is not a safe plant, we believe it must be shut down. Nuclear technology is unforgiving.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Betty Brink, Tarrant County
On behalf of the CFUR Board:
Charles Crabtree, Somervell County,
Alma Burnam, Tarrant County
Denise Jones, Tarrant County
Lon Burnam, Tarrant County
Kay Taebel, Tarrant County
Kasey Cupit, Tarrant County

Please direct any replies to Betty Brink, 7600 Anglin Drive,
Fort Worth, TX 76140, 817/478-6372