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The Honorable Edward Madigan
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Madigan:

I am pleased to reply to your letter of October 8, 1982, to Mr. Carlton Kammerer requesting information on the safety of the Clinton Power Station in DeWitt County, Illinois.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has several programs to enhance the safety of nuclear power facilities such as the Clinton Power Station. These include the licensing process and the inspection and enforcement program.

We are providing as Enclosure 1 a brief description of the licensing process which will give you a basic understanding of it. The main purpose of this process is to determine that nuclear facilities will be designed, constructed, tested, and operated in a manner which will protect the health and safety of the public, including workers at the plant, and also protect the environment. The licensing process includes safety and environmental reviews of many volumes of material submitted by the prospective licensee, in this case the Illinois Power Company. Reviews are conducted by the NRC staff and an independent Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. In addition one or more public hearings are held by an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to permit the public to comment on the safety aspects of NRC licensing decisions.

The NRC staff's review is comprehensive and widespread. For example it determines that all activities (e.g., design, procurement, construction, testing and operation) are covered by a quality assurance program; that people involved in the activities are qualified and they follow proper management systems and procedures; that the proposed design and supporting analyses are correct, meet NRC requirements, and will result in a safe design; that plant systems will be properly constructed and tested before the plant goes into operation; and that the plans and procedures for operating the plant meet NRC requirements. The independent review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards is similarly comprehensive and probing.

The licensing process is proceeding for the Clinton Power Station. The license application was docketed on September 8, 1980. The NRC Staff's Safety Evaluation Report was issued in February 1982. A Supplement to the Safety Evaluation Report was issued in July 1982 and contains the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards' letter which summarizes their review of the application. Copies of these documents are provided as Enclosures 2 and 3. A public hearing date before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has not yet been established but is planned for 1983.

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The NRC inspection and enforcement program complements the licensing process discussed above. Activities at the Clinton Facility, which could affect its safety, are inspected by a Resident Inspector who is assigned full time at the Facility and the various inspection specialists who periodically travel to the Facility from NRC's Chicago Region III office. These inspectors review design, construction, construction testing, preoperational testing, startup testing and operations activities to determine whether or not these activities meet NRC requirements and are consistent with the commitments determined to be acceptable by the NRC staff during the licensing process reviews. At Clinton most effort to date has been directed at design, construction, construction testing and preoperational testing since the Facility is only about 84% complete.

When an activity at the Facility is determined not to be consistent with NRC requirements, enforcement action is taken by the NRC against the licensee to assure the activity is corrected and that it will be performed properly in the future. Recently, a significant enforcement action was taken against the Illinois Power Company for a breakdown in quality assurance in electrical construction. A fine of \$90,000 was imposed. This action has resulted in an Illinois Power Company Improvement Program which is implementing improvements in management control, quality assurance, and work activities not only in the electrical area but in other construction activities as well. This action by Illinois Power Company is being monitored closely by the NRC, and appears to be effective.

We believe the independent licensing reviews, public hearings, and the inspection and enforcement program combine to assure a high degree of safety at nuclear power facilities.

Additional information relating to the safety of Clinton Power Station is available in the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and the Local Public Document Room at the Warner Vespasian Library, Clinton, Illinois. We are providing as Enclosures 4 and 5 copies of "Citizen's Guide to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Information" and "Public Document Room User's Guide."

If we can provide any further information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T. A. Rehm

for William J. Dircks
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosures: As stated

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I am pleased to reply to your letter of October 8, 1982, to Mr. Carlton Kammerer requesting information on the safety of the Clinton Power Station in DeWitt County, Illinois.

We are providing as Enclosure 1 a brief description of the licensing process. The Clinton Power Station Operating License application was docketed on September 8, 1980. The staff's Safety Evaluation Report was issued in February 1982. A Supplement to the Safety Evaluation Report was issued in July 1982 and contains the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards' letter which summarizes their review of the application. Copies of these documents are also provided as Enclosures 2 and 3. A public hearing before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board is planned for 1983. The date of this hearing has not been set.

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Sincerely,

William J. Dircks
 Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:
 As Stated

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