

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 28, 1971

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

The attached letter from Mrs. Jeff Broady raises some interesting questions concerning the Cooper Nuclear Power Plant. I would appreciate information on which to base a reply.

For your information, during the past year Mrs. Broady has written to President Nixon, Senator Bruska and Senator Curtis. I had received a letter from Mrs. Broady previously and based my reply to her letter on the information your agency had provided Senators Bruska and Curtis. Her present letter is in rebuttal to that information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles Thone
CHARLES THONE
Member of Congress

CT:Jb
Enc.

Rec'd Off. Dir. of Reg.
Date 5/11/71
Time 11:30

DR. 3352

COPY

Brownville, Nebraska
April 24, 1971

Mr. Charles Thone
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Thone,

Thank you for your answer to my letter.

I am certainly aware of the fact that construction on the Cooper Nuclear Power Plant will continue, regardless of my protestations.

What I do not think you are aware of is the fact that there is an extreme difference between the estimates of the AEC and the Public Health Evaluation of the Cooper Station. The AEC says 2.2 mrem (for our cattle), and the Public Health (based on the Dreaden study) - .5 rem /year to the one-year old child who ingests milk within a 15 - 20 mile radius around this reactor plant. Since .5 rem is 500 mrem, this is quite a difference. Nothing is said about radiation in the air, water, or food products apart from milk in the Public Health Evaluation. Think about this for a moment - the Public Health is saying here that our radiation will be - what? Mr. Thone, it could easily be over 2000 - all within normal operating procedures. What I am so concerned about here is that the AEC and NPPD intend to do their own monitoring, and they evidently have convinced our state government that they should go along with this. Since there is so very much difference between their story and the Public Health - who is right? Deceive me, I don't want NPPD to monitor me - if they said the weather was fine, I'd look for an umbrella. You know, and I know, that if a sample of air is collected when the wind is blowing towards the north, the sample has to be taken towards the north - not the south - see what I mean?

I'm sure what has happened is this - the fuel cladding assemblies simply cannot withstand the radiation and the corrosiveness of nuclear fission. They leak. Radiation leaks into the coolant of a BWR plant - and out the dispersal tower. They plan no holdup of gases or particulates. As I understand it, to withhold these gases creates another situation, more dangerous than the first. This was not planned by the AEC. But they recognize that this fact exists - they plan on a fuel cladding failure of 1% in Cooper.

ppg. 20 - "Public Health Evaluation of the Cooper Nuclear Station"

maximum assemblies with defective cladding - Dresden 1 - 5%, Big Point Rock 15%, Humboldt Bay 25%, Elk River 15% -

I don't know how many of the existing atomic plants are BWR's - in or out of operation, but I do think it would only be reasonable that every one of them should be examined for leaks and the vicinity should be surveyed (by an independent surveyor) for radioactive uptake of ^{131}I , ^{137}Cs , and ^{90}Sr , in cattle, all livestock, and corn etc. If you do not think this is reasonable, study the "hazards of ionizing radiation" - FRC.

In the surveillance studies of Dresden 1, prototype of Cooper, ^{131}I was found in cattle thyroids, and ^{137}Cs was found in corn kernels. We are much closer to Cooper than the cattle tested were to Dresden, and Dresden is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of Cooper. What happens to the 3 - 4 million pounds of beef we feed out and the 30, - 60,000 bushels of corn we feed out, if Cooper leaks like, say Humboldt Bay?

Mr. Thone, we are too close to operate a feed yard under these conditions. We'd leave anytime, but we can't sell to another farmer. We're stuck.

Talk to Mike Gravel, find out why he has introduced a bill calling for a moratorium on the building of these plants. Let me know his answer.

Find out why the Illinois Pollution Control Board has

demanded a reduction by a factor of 50 (below the AEC recommendation) to their Dresden 111 plant - exactly like Cooper.

Find out why the citizens of Michigan has won in Federal Court a similar case.

Explain what has happened to our Public Health in this area - has it been silenced by the AEC and it's incorporation into the EPA?

I have asked repeatedly for studies on all BWR plants in the United States, so far, to no avail - will you help me? These figures must include percentages of cladding failures in all BWR plants, whether or not they are now operational.

Do you realize that NPPD and Iowa Power and Light jointly are building Cooper, do you know that Iowa Power and Light has merged with Illinois Electric, and is the process of another merger with Iowa Gas and Electric? Do you know that 88% of the power generated at Cooper will go out of state? 12% will go to Lincoln, and Sam Schwartzkopf has told me that NPPD would have to lower their prices to get Lincoln to buy - this doesn't sound as if Nebraska needs this power.

Are you acquainted with the tax subsidies of Public Power?

This is not a remote area of no importance - this is potentially the greatest cattle feeding area in the Midwest, we grow corn. real corn - 90,000 bushels on our farm alone.

sincerely

/s/ Mrs. Jeff Broady

Mrs. Jeff Broady