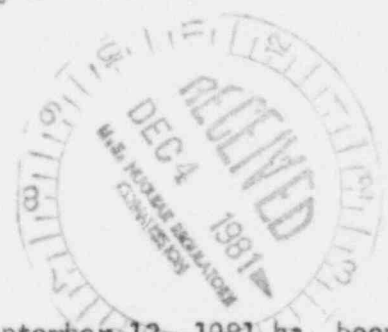


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DEC 04 1981



Docket Nos. 50-295/304

Ms. Susan Paige
 585 Meadowood Drive
 Lake Forest, Illinois 60045

Dear Ms. Paige:

Your letter to President Reagan dated September 13, 1981 has been directed to this office to assure that your concerns have been addressed. Since the Three Mile Island (TMI) incident a number of significant actions have been taken to improve the safety at all nuclear power plants. The most direct improvements to the safe operation of the plant and improvements in systems to mitigate consequences in the unlikely event of an accident at the Zion plant are listed in an NRC document, NUREG 0737, "Clarification of TMI Action Plan Requirements," dated November 1980. This document and correspondence by the NRC, Commonwealth Edison Company, and other sources related to the implementation at the Zion Station can be found at the Local Public Document Room maintained at the Zion-Benton Public Library District, 2600 Emmaus Avenue, Zion, Illinois.

Several of the areas in the NUREG 0737 plan addresses preparations for any emergency at the Zion Station. Since the TMI incident, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the NRC have developed new regulations requiring improved emergency preparedness plans and capabilities for nuclear facilities as well as for State and local governments. These regulations require emergency plans which include the ability to promptly notify the public out to a distance of 10 miles and to implement protective measures as may be required for the general public. The Zion Nuclear Power Station onsite emergency plans have been reviewed by the NRC staff and provide the information regarding the actions to be taken onsite.

As provided for in a Presidential Directive, dated December 7, 1979, FEMA is responsible for the review of offsite emergency plans, which include evacuation planning of State and local authorities. The offsite plans are also under development and in this regard, Mr. John Anderson, Director, FEMA Region V, 1 North Dearborn Street, Room 540, Chicago, Illinois 60602, (312) 353-1500, would be able to provide you with additional information regarding the state of offsite preparedness if you so desire.

In addition to the onsite and offsite plans for the Zion Station, the NRC maintains an Incident Response Center. The Incident Response Procedures provides, among other things, for notifying the White House Situation Room in the event of an emergency.

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Following the TMI incident, the NRC became concerned that the level of societal risk at the Zion Station might be higher than at other facilities due to the relatively high population density surrounding these facilities. On February 29, 1980, the NRC issued a Confirmatory Order to the Commonwealth Edison Company which required additional safety measures be taken at the plant until a specific review could be made of the risks.

On September 8, 1981, the Commonwealth Edison Company submitted the results of their "Zion Probabilistic Safety Study" to the NRC. In this report, the Commonwealth Edison Company has attempted to show that the safety features and operation of their Zion facility does not represent a higher risk to the public even though the plant is located in a high population area. We are currently reviewing that report to determine if the risk is acceptable and if not, if additional safety systems are required. We plan to complete our review in 1982.

You can be assured that the incident at TMI has resulted in considerable improvements in safety at the Zion Station. We believe the plant is safe and will be safer when all the requirements are in place and we feel we will be able to handle any emergency that might occur even though one is not expected.

We regret that you were subjected to the unpleasant circumstances you mentioned in your letter. Even after extensive investigations by NRC, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, of reported plant and animal health effects in the TMI area, none of the reported problems could be linked to TMI and no general pattern of effects could be seen. For your information, I am including a copy of NUREG 0738 (EPA 600/4-80-049), INVESTIGATIONS OF REPORTED PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH EFFECTS IN THE THREE MILE ISLAND AREA, which was issued by both NRC and EPA and thoroughly discusses the issue. In addition, there is nothing related to TMI which would justify limiting the use of water at gas stations or residences in the area as you mentioned in your letter.

With respect to odd shapes of crops (commonly called "sports"), such conditions are common, natural phenomena, which have occurred, apparently, since time began. These conditions have been of traditional interest for the news media for decades, providing copy for Ripley's Believe-it-or-not and seasonal stories on local inhabitants with the biggest or oddest shaped produce. The nuclear age has had no discernable affect on this phenomena. Even so, the NRC continues to monitor the effects surrounding TMI as well as at all nuclear facilities.

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Ms. Susan Paige

- 3 -

We trust this answers your concerns in your letter. If you have further questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
for Operating Reactors
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
NUREG 0738

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SURNAME	Wigginton	Novak	TNovak			
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14
NRC

585 Meadowood Dr.
Lake Forest, Illinois
60045
September 13th
1981

Dear Mr. President,

A year ago last June, I attended a wedding in York, Pennsylvania. York has been strongly affected by the Three Mile Island crisis. Crops have been ruined and some vegetables that were grown in gardens came out in very odd shapes. On the day of the wedding Three Mile Island let krypton gas out all day. People are having to move away from their homes. And what scared me the most was when I was returning home from the wedding, and stopped at a gas station and I couldn't use the water. There were signs that said the water had nuclear wastes in it. We couldn't even wash our hands. What I was wondering, was what you would do if this crisis happened again? I live in Lake Forest, Illinois, and what would happen if the Zion, Illinois Nuclear Power Plant had a crisis like Three Mile Island? Do you have anything to prevent this from occurring? Sincerely yours
Susan Paige



Air Mail

Par Avion

Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington D.C.
20,500