



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 28, 1991

The Honorable Don Nickles
United States Senator
3310 Mid-Continent Tower
409 South Boston
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103

Dear Senator Nickles:

This is in response to your letter of February 27, 1991 regarding concerns of your constituent, Mrs. Thelma Moton, about the Sequoyia Fuels Corporation (SFC) facility in Gore, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Moton apparently believes that the SFC facility is responsible for many cancer deaths around the plant site. We sympathize with the loss of her sister and friends, but have no reason to believe that these deaths were caused by operation of the plant. Releases from the plant are limited by regulatory requirements that are based on scientific data and are considered safe. NRC is not aware of any information or data that establishes a connection between SFC activities and the incidence of cancer. With regard to Mrs. Moton's question regarding the validity of cancer death data, there has been no collusion between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the licensee and the hospitals.

As you are aware, the SFC facility has been the subject of extensive inspection efforts by the NRC because environmental uranium contamination was discovered at the site, although there is no indication that the contamination has migrated off SFC property. During extensive inspection efforts over the past 7 months, NRC has identified several instances where SFC apparently failed to comply with NRC regulations and the conditions of the SFC license. In addition, the Sequoyia facility was placed on the agency's problem plant list, which will allow the NRC to place extra emphasis and resources on closely monitoring this facility. To date, SFC appears to have been appropriately addressing NRC concerns, and we believe that the increased emphasis by the NRC to monitor SFC operations ensures adequate protection of the health and safety of the public.

Mrs. Moton also expressed concern about cleanup activities at the Kerr-McGee site at Cushing. At the present time, these activities are underway as a result of an agreement between the state of Oklahoma and Kerr-McGee. Furthermore, an NRC contractor is assessing the conditions at the Cushing site and these results will be used by the NRC to determine if further NRC actions are appropriate.

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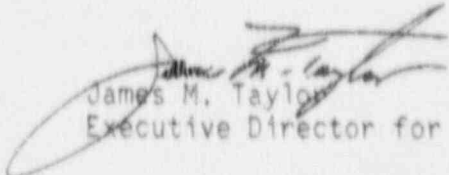
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The Honorable Don Nickles

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We hope that this is responsive to Mrs. Moton's concerns. If you require additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,


James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations