

50-498/499



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 16, 1994

The Honorable Cardiss Collins
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Collins:

I am responding to your letter of July 14, 1994, in which you requested the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) to review concerns raised in letters to you from Mr. Brian R. Seelund and Mr. Peter D. Fry. The letters were forwarded to our agency because the subject did not fall within DOE's purview. Your constituents expressed concern regarding the South Texas Project Nuclear Plant (STP).

The letters referred to a special investigation being conducted by the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Investigators from the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are also collecting and reviewing allegations of safety deficiencies and harassment and intimidation of plant workers. The NRC investigators are attempting to interview all persons who have expressed specific concerns about STP and will ensure that all concerns are addressed. Your constituents referred to allegations of misconduct and fraudulent quality assurance and quality control documents. The investigators will determine whether problems such as these exist, and the NRC will take whatever action is needed to ensure that activities at STP are carried out safely.

The two units at STP are operating, although they had been shut down for over a year to evaluate several problems found by Houston Lighting & Power (HL&P, the licensee) and NRC. In February 1993, NRC issued a confirmatory action letter to the licensee to confirm that these issues would be resolved before the plant would restart. Earlier this year, the NRC allowed the licensee to restart the units because of significant changes and improvements, both in management effectiveness and in plant conditions, that corrected the deficiencies. The NRC continues to spend significant inspection time at STP in order to verify that commitments are fulfilled and improvements are effective. Although the NRC has the authority to shut down the units now, as requested by your constituents, the agency must have sufficient and significant basis for taking such action. Our inspections indicate that both units are operating safely; therefore, I have no basis for taking such action.

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

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PDR ADOCK 05000498
P PDR

DF01

To fulfill our responsibility for protecting the public health and safety, we will maintain strong regulatory oversight and a rigorous inspection program at STP. I appreciate your constituents' interest in the safety of STP and hope this letter alleviates their concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:
Incoming Letters
from Constituents

cc w/o enclosure:
Mr. Brian R. Seel...
225 B West Washington
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Mr. Peter D. Fry
167 N. Racine
Chicago, Illinois 60607

DISTRIBUTION:

Docket File (50-498/499) (w/incoming)	J. Roe
NRC & Local PDRs (w/incoming)	E. Adensam
EDO #0010320	W. Beckner
EDO R/F	OGC
PDIV-1 R/F (w/incoming)	OPA
J. Taylor	OCA
	SECY #94-745
	NRR Mail Room (EDO #0010320 w/incoming)
	N. Olson
J. Callan, RIV	T. Gibbons
J. Fitzgerald, OI	C. Hawes
R. Zimmerman	T. Alexion (w/incoming)
A. Thadani	E. Peyton
D. Crutchfield	A. Beach, RIV
F. Gillespie	D. Skay

*See previous concurrence

OFFICE	PDIV-2/LA	PDIV-2/PE	PDIV-1/PM	TECH ED	PDIV-1/D	RG-IV
NAME	EPeyton	DSkay	TAlexion	JMain*	WBeckner	ABeach*
DATE	8/11/94	8/11/94	8/11/94	8/10/94	8/11/94	8/10/94
OFFICE	ADR4	DRPW:D	ADP	NRR:D	EDO	OCA
NAME	EAdensam*	JRoe*	RZimmerman	WRussell	JMTaylor	DR
DATE	8/8/94	8/8/94	8/11/94	8/11/94	8/11/94	8/11/94

ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 08/01¹⁵/94

EDO CONTROL: 0010320
DOC DT: 07/14/94
FINAL REPLY:

Rep. Cardiss Collins
(7/21/94 DOE referral)

TO:

DOE

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN **

CRC NO: 94-0745

Executive Director

DESC:

ROUTING:

ENCLOSURES LETTERS FROM BRIAN R. SEELUND AND
PETER D. FRY CONCERNING SOUTH TEXAS

Taylor
Milhoan
Thompson
Blaha
Callan, RIV
Fitzgerald, OI

DATE: 08/01/94

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Russell

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

NRR RECEIVED: AUGUST 1, 1994
NRR ACTION: DRPW:ROE
NRR ROUTING: RUSSELL
MIRAGLIA
ZIMMERMAN
THADANI
CRUTCHFIELD
GILLESPIE
BOHRER

ACTION
DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BY <u>August 10, '94</u>



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

JUL 21 1994

*OLA
17-F-2*

The Honorable Cardiss Collins
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Collins:

This will acknowledge your recent letter in which you referred letters from your constituents:

Brian R. Seelund
Peter D. Fry

Because the subject of your constituents' letters do not fall within the purview of the Department of Energy, we have forwarded your letter to:

Mr. William M. Beecher
Director
Office of Public Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Sincerely,

Bonnie M. Betancourt
Bonnie Betancourt
Director of Special Projects
Office of the Executive Secretariat



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

CARDISS COLLINS

7TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

July 14, 1994

The Honorable William J. Taylor, III
Assistant Secretary For
Congressional Affairs
The Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, Sw
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am writing to inform you of a matter of concern to two of my constituents, and to respectfully request your assistance in addressing their request.

Enclosed please find letters from Mr. Brian R. Seelund, and Mr. Peter D. Fry. They have expressed interest in the status of the South Texas nuclear power plant operated by Houston Lighting and Power.

I would appreciate your attention to their concerns. Any information you could provide them regarding this situation would be appreciated.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cardiss Collins
CARDISS COLLINS
Member of Congress

CC/lc

Enclosures:

PLEASE SEND REPLY TO:

Suite 3880

230 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET

CHICAGO, IL 60604-1865

(312) 353-5794

LC=HLP

REP. CARLISS COLLINS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DEAR REP. COLLINS,

This letter is concerning the South Texas Nuclear Plant, operated by Houston Lighting & Power, and your Subcommittee during the ~~own~~ investigation. Please shut down the plant during the investigation, because if the fraud is true the plant will be shut down anyway. Also the subcommittee needs to do a thorough on-site inspection, hopefully by an independent inspector. We do not need another 3 mile Island incident or worse.

Thanks in advance,

Brian R. Seelund

225B WEST WASHINGTON, OAK PARK, IL. 60302 708-386-4857

U.S. Rep. Cardiss Collins
re: South Texas Nuclear Plant
operated by: Houston Lighting
and Power

6/15/94

Dear Rep. Collins

As a member of the congressional sub-committee
investigating allegations of misconduct and fraudulent
quality assurance and control documentation.

I truly hope that you use your elected
position to see that this nuclear mishap
is shut-down until declared safe by an
independent on-site inspection.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Fry

Peter D. Fry
167 N. Racine
Chicago Ill.

60607