



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

December 21, 1994

The Honorable John D. Dingell, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6115

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Commission, I am responding to your November 29, 1994 letter which forwarded a November 21, 1994 letter from Mr. Michael Keegan of Citizens' Resistance at Fermi 2 (CRAFT). The CRAFT letter raised concerns with findings in the NRC staff's November 15, 1994 plant restart safety evaluation and with NRC's withholding proprietary information. You requested that the Commission review and consider any further information or arguments in the CRAFT letter that might bear on the safe operation of Fermi 2.

The NRC staff considered the additional information provided by CRAFT and identified no new nuclear safety issues. As documented in the safety evaluation, the staff found that the actions taken by Detroit Edison to address the results and possible causes of the December 25, 1993 turbine failure have been adequate to protect the health and safety of the public. This analysis and other inspection activities were the bases for the NRC staff allowing Detroit Edison to begin the restart process at Fermi 2 on December 14, 1994.

The staff reviewed the CRAFT concerns pertaining to structural integrity of the turbine and the adequacy of the independent review. The staff found that the turbine failure and subsequent turbine modifications pose no credible missile hazards to safety-related components. Further, corrective actions taken by Detroit Edison minimize the likelihood of a turbine failure causing a reactor transient. It is the staff's technical judgement that pre-existing bowing of the turbine shafts was within manufacturing tolerances and was not significant in the failure of the turbine. As stated in our October 12, 1994 response to CRAFT's August 18, 1994 letter, technical expertise within the staff is sufficient so that additional independent review is unnecessary.

The NRC decision to treat some documents used in preparation of the safety evaluation as proprietary information was in accordance with Section 2.790 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10CFR). In an October 19, 1994 letter, Detroit Edison provided acceptable bases for classifying certain

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documents used in the staff review as proprietary information in accordance with 10 CFR Section 2.790. The staff withheld these seven documents because they contained trade secrets and privileged commercial information belonging to the owner of the documents. These withheld documents represent a third of the documents referenced in the safety evaluation. The remaining documents, which are available in the local public document room in Monroe, Michigan, contain substantial information that the staff considered in developing the safety evaluation conclusions.

Let me assure you that the staff has given careful consideration to the CRAFT November 21, 1994, letter and has identified no information that bears unfavorably on the conclusion that a restart of Fermi 2 is safe. The NRC staff will closely monitor activities to ensure that Detroit Edison conducts the restart and subsequent operations safely. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Ivan Selin

cc: Rep. Carlos J. Moorhead