

41 West Gravers Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19118
November 16, 1984

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Docket #50 - 352
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sirs:

Yesterday my husband and I attended the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's public hearings that had been announced would take place at the Pottstown Holiday Inn but were, instead, moved almost at the last minute to the Information Center of the Philadelphia Electric Company.

According to the desk clerk at Holiday Inn, Pottstown, the NRC clerk calling from Washington to arrange the reservations had reserved rooms for personnel at the Valley Forge Holiday Inn (close to the NRC's local office) instead of the Pottstown one. The Pottstown Holiday Inn did have a room reserved for the public meeting, but Judge Hoyt was so incensed at having no room on the premises that she canceled the public meeting reservation.

As a result, attenders at the hearing felt like chickens dining in the fox's kitchen and justifiably derided the judges, who were actually sitting behind a table draped with a symbol of Reddy Kilowatt. The lectern to which each witness, protester or advocate was called to testify had "Philadelphia Electric Company" carved into it. Someone tactfully covered the lettering with masking tape, and at the time of the afternoon recess the NRC judges and others took off the blue table cover and reversed it to the undecorated side. But the damage to public sensibilities had already been done, and with no apologies from the NRC.

My husband placed on record a short comment to the effect that the NRC was created for the purpose of regulating the production of nuclear power and clearly had a proclivity to expand and multiply its activities, following Parkinson's Law.

On my own part, I would like to comment now that the very reason for that hearing's being held was also sufficient reason to abandon the project under discussion. Any public utility that requires an evacuation plan involving a chance—however seemingly remote—of making the area around it uninhabitable for a vast period of time, that produces low-level radioactive emissions into air and water in its environment that have to be contained and removed with extraordinary precautions and can never be totally eliminated, any public utility that requires constant vigilance of numbers of people at hundreds of check points day and night, and any public utility that has a life expectancy of usefulness for only twenty years and then has to be perilously dismantled or abandoned for an almost limitless time—that utility we can and must do without.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to express our views. Please respect them.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth Allan Miner
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