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Lorado Taft Field Campus
Northern Illinois University
P.O. Box 299
Oregon, Il. 61061
November 22, 1984

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Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board
Washington D.C.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
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To the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board:

The Lorado Taft Field Campus of Northern Illinois University is a resident outdoor education center located two miles from the town of Oregon and four miles from the Byron Nuclear Power Plant. The residents of this campus include the site director, the dining hall manager and his family, 15 graduate teaching assistants, and a weekly average of 150 children and teachers from various parts of northern Illinois. In addition, the campus houses the offices of the Faculty of Outdoor Teacher Education, employs about 15 local residents as support service personnel, and hosts weekend conference groups ranging in size from 20-80.

The Byron plant is visible from several places on campus and stands as a stark and foreboding sight. It has been the source of much discussion and the cause of much concern. Our concerns with the plant are as follows:

1. The Byron Nuclear Power Plant is a threat to the safety of the local residents. Nuclear power is a complex, unreliable, mistake-prone technology. Accidents have happened in the past and will continue to plague the industry. The Byron plant has already been shown to have problems with poor workmanship and faulty construction. This, added to the potential problems caused by human error, sabotage, and terrorist attacks, makes the risks associated with the plant so great that they outweigh any possible benefits.

2. In the event of an accident, Taft Campus could not be quickly evacuated. Twice each week, an average of 150 children and teachers are in residence at the campus for a three-day outdoor education experience. The busses which transport these people to the campus do not remain on site but return to the home school district located as far as 130 miles away. At the present time, there is no evacuation plan involving the use of local busses, which would be in use evacuating Oregon residents, nor is there a plan for bringing in outside transportation which could delay evacuation up to three-four hours. If the warning siren which is located next to the campus should sound, the residents would be left to face radiation with no way to leave and inadequate housing to wait out the delay.

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3. The Byron plant is excessively costly and not needed. There is no shortage of energy at the present time and the added electricity which might be generated should the plant function properly is simply not needed. Further, many experts in the field have predicted that demands for electricity will decline in the future. In light of the potential dangers from the operation of a nuclear plant in such close proximity to residential areas, the Byron plant should not be allowed to be loaded or to begin testing until it can be shown that additional electricity is vitally needed and that nuclear energy is the only way to supply the power.

We, the residents and staff of Lorado Taft Field Campus, believe we would be in danger if the Byron Nuclear Power Plant receives a license for the production of electricity. We are appealing to you to place the safety of the public, especially the safety of our school children, above the demands of Commonwealth Edison and deny an operating license to the Byron Nuclear Power Plant.

Sincerely.

Debbie Chakour

Grant Bernard Deschênes

William D. Stark

Barbara Megan

Sara Hajduk

Louisa Koff

Donald S. Newman

~~John D. Williams~~

Timothy ...

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Gandy Young

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