

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

SEP 19 1

Honorable Charles W. Sandman House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Sandman:

This is in response to your letter of August 24, 1973, which enclosed letters from Mr. Henry J. Kurtz of Oyster Creek, New Jersey and John and Alma Dennis of Waretown, New Jersey.

The environmental impact of the proposed Forked River Nuclear Station has been studied and evaluated by the Commission, and the findings are described in a final environmental statement issued in February 1973. Following issuance of that statement, a hearing was held in April 1973 in which concerns expressed by Mr. Kurtz and by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis were addressed. In fact, Mr. Kurtz, through his counsel, participated in that hearing. The finding of the hearing board was that the incremental environmental effects of the Forked River Station would be minimal, and would not add significantly to any adverse effects that result from the existing Oyster Creek Station.

A draft environmental statement on the Oyster Creek Station was issued in July 1973. Following receipt of comments from Federal, State and local agencies and interested individuals, a final environmental statement will be issued which will propose actions and conditions which should be instituted for protection of the environment. In the draft statement, the staff has included a discussion of the heated water, shipworm, siltation, fish kill, and inadequate monitoring problems, among others.

The staff has concluded that long term operation of the Oyster Creek Station under existing conditions is not acceptable, and that steps must be taken to avoid recurrent fish kills of the magnitude previously experienced. Various alternatives for alleviating the impacts of the Oyster Creek Station are under study by the staff, and our recommendations will be set forth in the final environmental statement, which is currently scheduled to be issued in October 1973. Prior to a decision concerning issuance of a full term operating license for the Oyster Creek Station, a hearing will be held before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board concerning environmental matters relating to the Station. Mr. Kurtz's petition to intervene in the proceeding has been granted and he will have an opportunity to fully present his case at the hearing.

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I am enclosing copies of the draft environmental statement for Oyster Creek Station and the final environmental statement for Forked River Station which you may wish to pass on to Mr. Kurtz and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis.

I hope this information will aid you in replying to your constituents.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

A. Giambusso /

A. Giambusso, Deputy Director for Reactor Projects Directorate of Licensing

Enclosures:

- 1. Draft Environmental Statement for Oyster Creek Station
- 2. Final Environmental Statement for Forked River Station

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