



State of Wisconsin
Office of the Governor

Anthony S. Earl

October 31, 1984

Mr. Nunzio J. Palladino, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Palladino:

I have been following with great interest your agency's response to Northern States Power Company's plan to ship 1,058 spent fuel assemblies from Monticello, Minnesota to Morris, Illinois. As you may know, I have consistently questioned the wisdom and necessity of these shipments.

On October 16, 1984 Wisconsin officials met with representatives of the NRC and the Federal Railway Administration to explain why, in our view, the proposed Burlington Northern route should not be approved. Nonetheless, a route approval was issued by NRC within a few days of that meeting.

I am deeply disappointed by the very narrow view the NRC is apparently taking of its authority to analyze and review these shipments. I understand that this may be the largest shipment of nuclear waste ever contemplated in the country, yet no significant environmental review has ever been conducted by the NRC. No formal inquiry has been made into the need to transport this waste, and no attempt has been made to identify the best route for the shipments.

Because of this lack of review, I have decided to officially petition the NRC asking for an assessment of the need for these shipments. That assessment should include an inquiry into the viability of alternatives to shipment, including dry cask storage. If the assessment does indicate a need for the shipments, the petition will ask the NRC to formally analyze alternate routes.

I believe it is essential that these questions be addressed. If the NRC and other federal agencies fail to do so, then I will support state legislation to fill this regulatory void.

I hope you share my belief that these questions are serious and need to be resolved. I also hope that the Commission will delay the shipments until

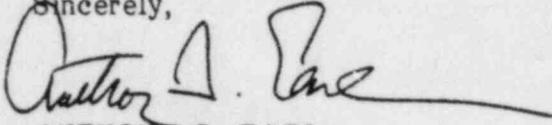
8501080476 841217
PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

State Capitol
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707-7863
608-266-1212

EDO --- 000102

such time as Wisconsin's petition can be considered. Please remember that these shipments are scheduled to occur over a number of years, and there is no immediate need for additional storage capacity at Monticello. I have instructed my staff to prepare a petition for submittal by December 1, 1984.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anthony S. Earl", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANTHONY S. EARL
G o v e r n o r

ds1