

Docket Nos: 50-329
and 50-330

The Honorable Donald W. Riegler, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Riegler:

Senator Riegler's letter of February 17, 1984, to Mr. Carlton Kammerer, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, enclosing a letter dated January 9, 1984, from Mr. Leo R. Romo of Essexville, Michigan, has been forwarded to me for reply. Mr. Romo indicates a suspicion that the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is "withholding vital, damaging information that should be made public" on the Midland Plant, Units 1 and 2. Specifically, he is concerned that "reports are being 'watered-down', edited, or not being released at all about Midland's Diesel Generator Building", and he indicates he does not understand "the NRC's recent announcement about the crack in the Auxiliary Building being acceptable."

It is our understanding that the expressions of concern by NRC staff members or NRC consultants regarding structural adequacy of the Midland Diesel Generator Building (DGB) have either been made in meetings or hearings open to the public, or have been expressed in written documents made publicly available. Individual staff members and NRC consultants with concerns have expressed their views freely and openly. From our own knowledge of this matter, and from Mr. Romo's letter, we find no support for the suspicion that reports on the Midland DGB are being "watered-down", edited or suppressed. It was because of such expressed concerns that the NRC retained a consultant, Brookhaven National Laboratory, in conjunction with three members of the NRC Structural Engineering Staff, to re-examine the DGB and to provide a report of its findings. For further details pertaining to this effort see the enclosure to this letter. Staff review of the enclosure and determination of a final staff position on the adequacy of the Midland DGB have not been concluded at this time. In its efforts to reach a final position, the NRC is continuing to involve those staff members and NRC consultants who have expressed concerns. A motion to reopen the hearing record with respect to the structural adequacy of the DGB is pending before the Licensing Board.

With respect to Mr. Romo's concern for the Auxiliary Building crack, on January 6, 1984, the applicant discovered and reported cracks in a concrete floor in the higher levels (elevation 685 feet) of the Control Tower portion of the Auxiliary Building. The applicant has provided an evaluation of these cracks by letter dated February 8, 1984. The letter is available to Mr. Romo at the Grace Dow Memorial Library, Midland, Michigan. The applicant's evaluation is currently being reviewed by the NRC staff. Accordingly, the staff has

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The Honorable Donald W. Riegle, Jr. - 2 -

not reached a position at this time regarding the structural significance of these cracks; and we know of no recent "announcement" by the NRC that the crack in the Auxiliary Building is acceptable.

I trust this reply provides sufficient clarification for Senator Riegle's reply to Mr. Romo.

Sincerely,

William J. Dircks, Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:
Memo to J. Knight, From P. Kuo,
Subject, Report on the Review
of the Diesel Generator
Building at Midland

*NOTE: SEE PREVIOUS WHITE FOR CONCURRENCE

DL:LB #4	LA:DL:LB #4	DL:LB #4	RIII	AD:L:DL
*DHood/hmc	*MDuncan	*EAdensam	*By Phone	*TNovak
3/27/84	3/27/84	3/27/84	3/28/84	3/ /84
DIR:DL	DD:NRR	DIR:NRR	OELD	EDO
*DEis/Thut	*EGCase	*HRDenton		WJDircks
3/28/84	3/6/84	4/3/84	3/ /84	3/ /84