

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
722 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

May 11, 1977

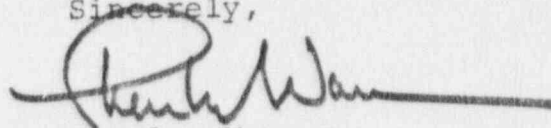
Mr. Lee V. Gossick
Executive Director for Operations
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Gossick:

The Council has received an inquiry from Congressman Elford A. Cederberg concerning safety and environmental factors at the Big Rock Point nuclear plant, as well as, a letter from Mary Sinclair which raises a number of questions concerning the safety of conducting an ERDA funded nuclear fuel research project at that plant.

I would appreciate receiving the view of the NRC on the points made in these letters.

Sincerely,



Charles Warren
Chairman

Enclosures

cc: Congressman Elford A. Cederberg
Senator Robert P. Griffin
Senator Donald W. Riegle, Jr.
Congressman Philip E. Ruppe
Governor William G. Milliken
Attorney-General Frank J. Kelley
Ms. Mary Sinclair
Mr. Robert Fri

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APR 11 1977

5711 Summerset Drive
Midland, Michigan 48640
E. A. CEDERBERG, M.C. April 7, 1977

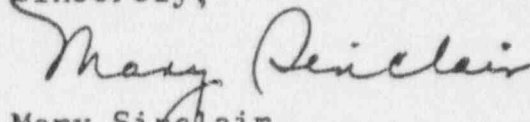
The Hon. Elford Cederberg
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20000

Dear Congressman Cederberg:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to Charles Warren, Director of the Council on Environmental Quality, requesting an environmental impact statement and an investigation of the nuclear fuel research program at the Big Rock nuclear plant which has been designated one of the nation's ten most dangerous n-plants.

I hope you will support this action in every way you can.

Sincerely,


Mary Sinclair

MS:SH
Enclosures

5711 Sunnerset Drive
Midland, Michigan 48640
April 6, 1977

COPY
Mr. Charles Warren, Director
Council on Environmental Quality
Washington, D.C. 20000

Dear Mr. Warren:

Recently the ERDA awarded a grant of \$15,000,000 to Consumers Power Company for the purpose of doing research on nuclear fuels at the Big Rock Plant. I believe it should be brought to your attention that this plant has been designated one of the ten most dangerous plants in the country by the Institute for Policy Studies of Washington, D.C.

It has cracks in the piping, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not required backfitting of the emergency core cooling system in this plant because of the costs involved. Therefore, it does not meet the NRC's minimum safety standards at present.

COPY
Furthermore, there has never been an environmental impact statement made for the Big Rock n-plant, which has operated intermittently since 1963.

By definition, nuclear fuel research means that there will be unknowns in the reactions involved. It would seem at least under these circumstances that an environmental impact statement should be required before the fuel research is permitted.

In addition, Consumers Power Company has a most lamentable record of poor management, incompetence and lack of quality control that has been demonstrated not only at Palisades and the Midland n-plant construction, but in their other facilities in Michigan, also. For example, the people of the State of Michigan had to allocate \$200,000 to investigate cost overruns in excess of four times the original estimate at the Marysville LNG Plant.

Dr. Paul Orrefice, President of Dow USA, testified under oath in the current hearings that Dow's lack of confidence in Consumers Power Company management and competence was one of the reasons that Dow Chemical now wants to be extricated from further connection with the Midland n-plants which are under construction here. The plants were intended primarily to supply steam and power to the Dow industrial complex here. Consumers Power Company has stated they face bankruptcy if the Midland n-plant is shut down and have stated they will

sue Dow for \$600 million if Dow tries to get out of the contract. Paul Orrefice has stated that Consumers Power pressures amount to, in his words, "extortion." At present, Consumers Power Company's credit rating is low because of the very poor performance of Palisades, which has operated at an average of 32% capacity since it began operations in 1972.

As further proof of incompetence, Consumers Power was never able to make their rad-waste holding tank work at Palisades, and they lied to the AEC's Regulatory Staff about it. (See memos and letters enclosed.) *Not enclosed*

Their quality control was so poor at the Midland n-plant site that the Appeals Board required a definite promise of improved performance as a condition of affirming the license. When Consumers Power failed to keep this promise, the Appeals Board wrote an angry letter to L. Manning Muntzing, then AEC's Director of Licensing, saying--"...What we have here is a pattern of repeated, flagrant and significant QA violations of a non-routine character -- coupled with an unredeemed promise of reformation." (Midland ASLAB to Muntzing, November 26, 1973.)

The first show-cause hearing in history was called against Consumers Power Company because of this. We were unable to participate due to lack of funds, and the whole thing was covered up.

Given this abysmal public record, clearly the award of \$15 million to Consumers Power Company by ERDA is a boondoggle that indicates the extent to which ERDA's nuclear promotion activities will go to save a faltering, incompetent utility pledged to nuclear promotion. (See advertisement enclosed.)

How can the people of this state tolerate being made guinea pigs for further experiments at Big Rock by this utility, which is demonstrably dishonest and incompetent?

I believe you should investigate all the circumstances involved at Big Rock, require an environmental impact statement on the nuclear fuel research grant, and as a minimum, require that the n-plant is brought to NRC safety standards before the research grant money is awarded to Consumers Power.

Sincerely,

Mary Sinclair

Mary Sinclair

Saginaw/Mapleton Intervenors

MS:SH

Enclosures

Cc: Sen. R. Griffin, Sen. D. Riegle, Cong. A. Cederberg, Cong. P. Ruppe, Gov. Millien, Attorney-General Kelley, and Dr. Howard Tanner

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

MAY 14 1977

Mr. Robert Fri
Acting Administrator
Energy Research and Development Administration
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Fri:

I am forwarding copies of correspondence and an inquiry we recently received from Congressman Elford A. Cederberg concerning a proposed ERDA nuclear fuel research project at the Big Rock Point nuclear plant.

I would appreciate it if you would provide me with more information about the project including a copy of any environmental assessment which may have been prepared pursuant to ERDA regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Sincerely,

Charles Warren
Chairman

Enclosures

cc: Congressman Elford A. Cederberg
Senator Robert P. Griffin
Senator Donald W. Riegle, Jr.
Congressman Philip E. Ruppe
Governor William G. Milliken
Ms. Mary Sinclair
Mr. Lee V. Gossick✓

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MAY 11 1977

Ms. Mary Sinclair
5711 Summerset Drive
Midland, Michigan 48640

Dear Ms. Sinclair:

A copy of your letter of April 6, 1977, concerning nuclear fuel research at the Big Rock Point nuclear plant has been provided to me indirectly by Congressman Elford A. Cederberg. Unfortunately, your letter was not received directly by the Council. I have made inquiries of both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Energy Research and Development Administration concerning nuclear fuel research at the Big Rock Point nuclear plant, including compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

I will provide you with the Council's response after I receive their replies.

Sincerely,

Charles Warren
Chairman

cc: Mr. Lee Gossick ✓
Mr. Robert Fri
Congressman Elford A. Cederberg