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SC 546/547

JUN 25 1981



The Honorable Gene M. Snyder
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Snyder:

I am pleased to respond to your letter dated May 22, 1981 in which you forwarded a letter from one of your constituents concerning resumption of concrete work at the Marble Hill Nuclear Power Station construction site.

I can assure you that the decision to authorize concrete placement was made only after a thorough review of the improvements made in the construction quality assurance program and after verification of the structural adequacy of the existing concrete. The verification program consisted of extensive testing and examination of the concrete by Public Service of Indiana and its consultants, review of test findings made during the actual concrete placement, and a review of previous NRC inspection findings. In addition, NRC adopted a suggestion from Save the Valley, an area environmental group, that outside consultants review the concrete work to provide additional assurance to area residents.

NRC retained two civil engineering experts, Alfred Parme and Rolland Hamm, to review the work. In addition, Save the Valley's consultant, Professor Michael Cassaro, was permitted to accompany the NRC consultants and to have access to the same information as the consultants. It was never the intent that the decision on resumption of concrete work would depend on submittal of a final report from the two NRC consultants. NRC planned to, and in fact did confer with the NRC consultants prior to permitting resumption of safety-related concrete work. The consultants verbally reported that they had concluded that the existing concrete was structurally sound. This finding will be documented in a final report, which will also include a review of the repairs of surface defects that could not be undertaken until work resumed at the site.

Professor Cassaro questioned the adequacy of one portion of the construction verification program, the "ultrasonic" testing of sample areas of concrete. His view is that the number of sample areas did not meet the NRC's previously established statistical criteria for the testing. Our review of the testing program, however, determined that the sample testing did meet the criteria and was sufficient to determine that there are no significant internal defects in the concrete. In addition, at the request of the two NRC consultants, portions of concrete were cut out of various locations in the plant and tested. The test results further confirmed the adequacy of the concrete.

In conclusion, I can assure you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is most concerned that the Marble Hill plant be built in accordance with the appropriate standards and regulations. When significant problems were found

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with the utility's construction and quality assurance programs in 1979, we did not hesitate to stop all safety-related construction work. Only after major revamping of the construction management and quality assurance systems was some work permitted to resume in December 1980, and concrete work was not permitted to resume until March 1981, 19 months after work was stopped.

It is not correct, as your constituent suggests, that NRC failed to keep its word on the resumption of concrete work. The views of the consultants were to be one portion of the information assessed in permitting work to resume, but it was not expected that the consultants' final report would be a prerequisite to making the decision. The decision to permit resumption of concrete work at Marble Hill was made only after extensive inspection of work at the site and review and evaluation of the upgraded management and quality assurance programs, as well as soliciting the findings of the consultants.

When the consultants' report is completed, within about one month, it will be publicly available. NRC documents on Marble Hill are available for inspection and copying at the Madison-Jefferson County Public Library in Madison, Indiana. Included in the documents available are Professor Cassaro's letters to NRC on the sampling program and NRC's replies.

I trust this information satisfies your concerns and those of your constituents.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Distribution:
HR Denton, NRR
HK Shapar, ELD
VStello, IE
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WJD
6/18/81

* See previous concurrence

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No. 1000
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6/17/81

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It is not correct, as your constituent suggests, that NRC failed to keep its word on the resumption of concrete work. The views of the consultants were to be one portion of the information assessed in permitting work to resume, but it was not expected that the consultants' final report would be a prerequisite to making the decision. The NRC staff permitted concrete work to resume at Marble Hill only after extensive inspections and review of work at the site and the upgraded management and quality assurance programs, as well as soliciting the findings of the consultants.

When the consultants' report is completed, within about one month, it will be publicly available. NRC documents on Marble Hill are available for inspection and copying at the Madison-Jefferson County Public Library in Madison, Indiana. Included in the documents available are Professor Cassaro's letters to NRC on the sampling program and NRC's replies.

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DD: IE RCDeYoung 6/ /81	D: IE VStello 6/ /81	EDO WJDircks 6/ /81			

FROM: Rep. Gene Snyder		ACTION CONTROL	DATES	CONTROL NO. 10519
		COMPL DEADLINE	5/20/81	DATE OF DOCUMENT
		ACKNOWLEDGMENT		5/22/81
		INTERIM REPLY		PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:
TO: Chairman Hendrie		FINAL REPLY	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN
		FILE LOCATION	6/25/81 H11-2466-H	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DESCRIPTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS		
Encl ltr fm Max H. Schwartz concerning quality of the construction of the Marble Hill Nuclear Power facility		<i>Please provide the out information to [unclear] 6/20.</i>		
CLASSIFIED DATA				
DOCUMENT/COPY NO.		CLASSIFICATION		
NUMBER OF PAGES		CATEGORY	SECY-01-0739	
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<i>J. Smack</i>	<i>5/29/81</i>	Shapar		
		Linda Underwood		
		Stello		
		<i>[Handwritten signature]</i>		
			NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY:	
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			EXT. _____	
			COMMENTS. NOTIFY:	
			EXT. _____	
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FROM: Rep. Gena Snyder	ACTION CONTROL		DATES		CONTROL NO.		
	COMPL DEADLINE		6/22/91		10519		
	ACKNOWLEDGMENT				DATE OF DOCUMENT		
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			JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

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TO: Chairman Hendrie	FINAL REPLY		PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:
	FILE LOCATION		<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
			OTHER: _____
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			EXT. _____
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No. 80-~~XXXXX~~ 254 Logging Date 5/27/81

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO: Commissioner _____ Date _____
 Exec. Dir./Oper. _____ Gen. Counsel _____
 Cong. Liaison _____ Solicitor _____
 Public Affairs _____ Secretary _____
 _____ Inspector & Auditor _____
 _____ Policy Evaluation _____

Incoming: Rep Gene Snyder, Const Ref
From: Max H. Schwartz

To: Hendrie Date 5/22/81

Subject: concerned about the confusion around
var rpts on the quality of the constr of the Marble
Hill fac

- Prepare reply for signature of:
- Chairman
 - Commissioner _____
 - EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY, IA, PE
 - Signature block omitted
 - _____
 - Return original of incoming with response

XXXX For direct reply* Suspense: June 15

- For appropriate action
- For information

Remarks: docket

Rec'd Off. EDO
Date... 5/24/81
Time... 1:00

For the Commission: billie

*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Correspondence and Records Branch