

353 Race Street  
Barco, Ohio  
May 1, 1963

Division of Licensing and Regulation  
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of April 24. Despite its expressed hopes, I did not find it or its enclosures fully reassuring, for the following reasons:

1. Understandably, you interpret your "responsibility relative to the health and safety of the public" in a restricted way and reject consideration of "zoning questions, conservation matters, and the esthetics of the site", among others. You have referred my letter to the Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, for "reply to the broad questions of conservation of resources ...". However, it is evident that the AEC is the only licensing power acting (the State of California, and others, having deferred entirely to the AEC), and the above-mentioned Service of the Department of Interior has no power to act, even if interested. What force will their opinions - or those of others with broad interest in human welfare - have, since only AEC has the power to act and you specifically reject considerations aside from safety in the narrow sense?

2. You outline elaborate hearing and review provisions, including opportunity for the public to be heard, prior to licensing. I note in passing that only "limited hearing" will be granted to citizens not having a direct, i.e., presumably local and, especially, financial interest, so that impartial experts (on whatever phase - broad or technical) outside of the AEC's staff or chosen consultants would not be given equal hearing. However, the most alarming provision in the enclosed policy pamphlet states that "Such things as site exploration, site excavation, procurement or manufacture of components, and construction of non-nuclear facilities may be done without [i.e., prior to] an AEC construction permit". Essentially, this policy means that there is no control over the choice of site or whether there should be permission for a given site to be used for a nuclear reactor; the company can just go ahead and "build" this decision. Once the interested company has gone that far, the AEC would be under great compulsion to grant a license sooner or later, and I should be very surprised if it ever forced abandonment of a site and facilities at that stage of development. In essence you would only take detailed steps to see that installation would fulfill your requirements for safety, sooner or later becoming operative.

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3. Finally, regular reading of Science or other periodicals representing a broad sample of the scientific community would reveal that there is a wide spectrum of opinion, even among people highly experienced with radioisotopes, on the advisability of rapid increase in the amounts of long-half-life waste to be disposed of, as well as the relative choice of methods. This fact simply reflects that our present state of experience is inadequate and can be made more certain only slowly. In contrast, there would probably be much better agreement among experts on the best way to handle waste from a given reactor once the site and necessity of the installation has been admitted. What apparently the AEC has not done, and the informed public has not been invited or even permitted to participate in at any general policy level, is to consider the primary question as to whether the estimated (albeit uncertain in some details) undesirable effects on the affected citizens' habitat - i.e. aesthetics, conservation, recreation, and other aspects of welfare as well as safety in the narrow sense now viewed by the AEC - are justified by the promised economics in generating power by a reactor. While this question might seem academic in a barren land with a poverty-stricken economy, it is apt and fundamental in our "affluent society" - increasingly affluent in per capita income but decreasing exponentially in the quality of our surroundings, a problem for which increased income has proved to be no remedy. Undoubtedly, the AEC probably considers such a question outside its province. But who has considered or will consider this fundamental policy question and permit the public to express itself on this question? These considerations explicitly in my initial letter was addressed to the President.

Very truly yours,

H. L. HEIDEMAN, Jr., M.D.

353 Race Street  
Eares, Ohio  
March 26, 1963



The President  
The White House  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Recent information in reference has called my attention to the fact that a privately-owned, power-generating nuclear reactor installation is planned for Bodoga Bay, California. The promised advantage of cheap electricity is balancing compared to the jeopardizing of facilities and possibly health in the area north of San Francisco, as well as the pernicious example set as far as conservation of the too-rapidly dwindling, irreplaceable natural resources and their uses.

The following facts are relevant: Bodoga Bay is about 50 miles north of San Francisco, and the suburban growth in Marin County is already substantial to at least 80 miles north of the Golden Gate and increasing rapidly. Also close to Bodoga Bay are the sites for a proposed seachem plant (in the same vein as the Cape Cod or Outer Banks, N.C., areas) and the state-preserved area Muir Woods, both were gone in a disappearing countryside and an exploding population crying out for the preservation of the recreational, not to mention esthetic and spiritual, sustenance of such areas. Finally, Bodoga Bay itself was chosen as the only suitable site in northern California for the U. of California's marine biology station.

In the face of these facts a private utility company was permitted to obtain this site and carry forward plans for a nuclear reactor installation there without any prior opportunity for the public to express themselves on the question. Such an installation would ruin the nearby areas' beautiful and primitive values. Secondly, it would offer the yet unsolved problem of safe disposal of large amounts of radioactive waste at sea, with potential contamination of a wide area, including the heavily populated shore around San Francisco. People who have professional knowledge of radioisotopes have present "answers" on methodology for disposing of high activity, long half-life wastes are only tentative, educated guesses. Finally, the possibility of a major accident's causing serious radioactive contamination of the nearby area and population, particularly in Marin County, is very real. I presume the design is supposed to be virtually fool-proof, just as it was at Hanford, where an accident resulted in levels of radioactivity so high they had to be monitored by airplane for the safety of the monitoring personnel.

This seems to be one more flagrant example of one small faction, or particularly monetary interest, having the deciding role where the public interest requires that the decision be viewed from various aspects. Certainly the governmental or other agencies or experts dealing with conservation, national parks, recreation, health and welfare should have as much role as

the AEC in the Bodega Bay decision. As the superior of all these specialized interests, the President has the responsibility to see that invaluable public interests - for a full, not just supposedly economic life - be preserved in the face of narrow, dispensable, commercial or pecuniary interests. As our population swells and our alleged standard of living increases, we find loss and loss of the world which makes life worth living being preserved for us, much less our descendants. You have spoken much of the importance of economic growth. Ironically, little has been said about the conservation of priceless, irreplaceable resources, whose progressive destruction is a problem which is far more pressing in time for the United States. Bodega Bay should be made a manifesto of such preservation of the broad interest of the people.

Very truly yours,

M. L. HEIDEMAN, Jr., H.D.

FROM: H. L. Heideman, Jr., M. D.  
353 Race Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio

DATE OF DOCUMENT:  
9-20-63

DATE RECEIVED  
9-21-63

NO.: 6488

LTR. MEMO: REPORT: OTHER:

TO: President Kennedy (forwarded to  
him by Howard Brown)

ORIG: X (6 encl) CC: OTHER:

ACTION NECESSARY  CONCURRENCE  DATE ANSWERED:  
NO ACTION NECESSARY  COMMENT  BY:

CLASSIF.: U POST OFFICE

FILE CODE: 50-205

DESCRIPTION: (Must Be Unclassified)  
Mr. Heideman encloses copies of letters diverted  
to the AEC for reply.... since the news-  
papers state that his forthcoming trip  
will include a stay at the national sea-  
shore.... "next door" to Bodega Bay.

REFERRED TO DATE RECEIVED BY DATE

ENCLOSURES:  
ltr. 5-1-63 to AEC reply to 4-24 ltr  
ltr. 3-26-63 to Pres re reactor at Bodega.

edwards	9-25		
w/Suppl. file by - MR ACTING			
H. P. Prior	9-25		
w/extras, for info			
Lowenstein	9-25		
w/extras, for info			

REMARKS:  
R Distributions: 1 - formal file  
1 - Sub File  
1 - AEC MR

*No response required for FRP 10/1/63*

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

9-23

(Date)

TO:

~~GM~~

DIR. of REG.

For Information

For appropriate handling

For preparation of reply for Chairman's signature (Refer to Manual Chapter 0240)

For discussion at Commissioners' Information Meeting

For distribution to other Commissioners

Daily Log

REMARKS:



Howard C. Brown, Jr.  
For the Chairman

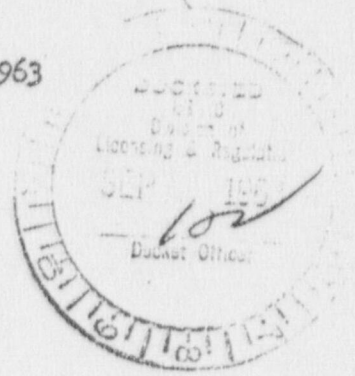
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BUCKET NO. 50-205 H

L&R File Copy (Suppl)

353 Race Street  
Berea, Ohio  
September 10, 1963



The President  
The White House  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed are copies of a letter to you, which was diverted to the AEC for reply, and a letter replying to them, although again more appropriate for your attention. The letters concern the projected establishment of a power-generating nuclear reactor at Bodega Bay, California, and raise fundamental questions of policy. Since the newspapers state that your forthcoming trip, centering on conservation matters, will include a stay at the national seashore north of San Francisco, virtually "next door" to Bodega Bay, I suggest that this occasion is most timely for attending to the Bodega Bay matter and its implications for the future.

Respectfully,  
*M. L. Heideman, Jr.*  
M. L. HEIDEMAN, Jr., M.D.

