

May 28, 1998

Doris Schaller Vernon
Secretary
Don't Waste Michigan - Northern Chapter
1028 Hoffman Street
Petoskey, MI 49770

Dear Ms. Vernon:

This is in response to your letter dated May 11, 1998, to Mr. Paul Harris, the NRC Licensing Project Manager for the Big Rock Point project. Your letter requested that NRC retain a resident inspector at the Big Rock site to monitor the project for a period of five years.

The Region III Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, which I head, is responsible for the inspection of this project. As your letter indicated, we announced at the public meeting on November 13, 1997, that we intended to assign an inspector to the site for about a year.

The inspection program for reactor decommissioning projects is governed by NRC Inspection Manual Chapter MC 2561, which provides flexibility regarding assignment of an inspector to a given project site. Various factors are considered, including the level of activities at the site, quality of licensee performance, availability of staff, proximity to the Regional inspection office, and others.

Because these factors can change, we are not prepared to make a five-year commitment regarding a site assignment. However, we continuously evaluate staffing factors, and may extend the period that we will retain an inspector at this particular site should circumstances warrant.

We appreciate your interest in these matters. You may contact Bruce Jorgensen, Chief of the Decommissioning Branch, at (630) 829-9615 at any time concerning inspection of the Big Rock Point project.

Sincerely,

/s/ C. D. Pederson

Cynthia D. Pederson, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

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DATE	05/ /98	05/28/98	05/29/98

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Secretary
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Petoskey, MI 49770

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Because these factors can change, we are not prepared to make a five-year commitment regarding a site assignment. However, we continuously evaluate staffing factors, and we are considering extending the period that we will retain an inspector at this particular site. A decision on a possible extension will likely be made within the next two months.

We appreciate your interest in these matters. You may contact Bruce Jorgensen, Chief of the Decommissioning Branch, at (630) 829-9615 at any time concerning inspection of the Big Rock Point project.

Sincerely,

Cynthia D. Pederson, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

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D. Vernon

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