

~~Distribution~~

~~Docket files~~

~~Pss P/F P-433~~

EDO r/f

Gerter

MGroff

LGossick

KCornell

SECY

HDenton

EGCase

NRC PDR

JDavis

NHaller

MAY 17 1979

Mr. Joseph E. Kawalski  
816 Lincoln Avenue  
Falls Church, VA 22046

Dear Mr. Kawalski:

This is in response to your letter regarding the orders by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on March 13, 1979, to shut down five nuclear power plants in the eastern United States because of questions about the ability of their piping systems to withstand earthquakes.

Shortly before those orders were issued, it became apparent to NRC staff that analysis techniques which had been used in the seismic design of safety-related piping for these five plants were not in accord with proven and generally accepted engineering practice. The result could be overstressing of piping and supports for earthquakes which could reasonably be expected to occur during the lifetimes of these plants. The eastern United States is generally believed to be a region of low seismicity, when compared to the western part of the country, but is not without significant historical seismic activity. Attached is a map showing the location and intensity of earthquakes that have occurred in your region.

Some of the piping systems involved could, if failure occurred, cause loss of coolant to the nuclear reactor. In addition, systems needed to shut the plant down safely in that event could also be affected. Thus, an earthquake of not extremely low likelihood would have the potential for causing an accident and for preventing operation of safety systems designed to cope with the accident.

Our objective is to review the situation in an expedited and disciplined manner so that these plants can be returned to operation with assurance that this will not constitute a threat to the public health and safety.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Earthquake Map for Virginia

NOTE: Identical letters being sent those on the attached list.

CRESS:PH:js  
TMISWC E/F  
4/13/79

NRR:PSS  
P6Fine  
4-23-79

NRR:PSS:U  
DMCretchfield  
4-17-79

NRR:PSS:D  
DFBlutch  
4-17-79

NRR:DD  
EGCase  
4-17-79

NRR:O  
HRDenton  
4-17-79

541

1979 BIR-5  
FAC-Lic

7908090187

E13



Mr. Joseph E. Kawalski  
816 Lincoln Avenue  
Falls Church, VA 22046

Mr. Robert K. Koger, Chairman  
North Carolina Utilities Commission  
P. O. Box 991  
Raleigh, NC 27602

Mr. Hugh A. Wells, Executive Director  
North Carolina Utilities Commission  
P.O. Box 991  
Raleigh, NC 27602

H. M. Kunkle, M.D.  
3300 High Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23707

Mr. Greer B. Gilka  
2349 Millennium Lane  
Reston, VA 22091

POOR ORIGINAL

Joseph E. Kowalski  
816 Lincoln Ave.  
Falls Church, Virginia  
22046  
21 March 1979

Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Gentlemen:

Today's Post carried an article about VEPCO's rate hike, because you people decided to shut down five (5) eastern area nuclear generating plants, for unsafety reasons and etc, so you call it, the impending disaster that might befall us due to an earthquake occurring with chances of one (1) year to one-million (1,000,000) years.

Well, I thought that I should tell you, that while you're at it, you should shut down all generating plants, that is, coal, oil, gas & nuclear. That way we can be sure that the impending

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POOR ORIGINAL

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A CAVEMAN

George Korman

I would also recommend that  
the U.S. start up the making  
ship fleet again to catch up  
so that with the make and  
could have sufficient oil for  
our oil lamps to work by.  
Well, I'd also be saying that  
you NRC keep here just get  
the amount for your bottles.

30's

~~Well, I've had enough of your  
fun. I'm going back to work.~~  
~~Right milk market - the good~~

my contribution -  
not just an important  
U.S. state should also recognize  
human doing with politicians  
getting to protect us from the  
contribute you.

No. 79-0588 Logging Date 3/26/79

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO:  Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exec. Dir./Oper. \_\_\_\_\_  Gen. Counsel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cong. Liaison \_\_\_\_\_  Solicitor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Public Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Incoming Robert Koger & Hugh Wells  
 From: North Carolina Public Utilities Comm.

To: Chairman Hendrie Date 3/26/79

Subject: Shutdown of five reactors for seismic related issues

- Prepare reply for signature of:
  - Chairman
  - Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_
  - EDO, OC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY
  - Signature block omitted
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Return original of incoming with response

- For direct reply\*
- For appropriate action
- For information
- For recommendation

See \* & OCT, EDO  
 Date 3/27/79  
 File 1-1-2

Remarks: Cops to: RF

For the Commission: Combs

\*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Mail Facility

NRC 88

ACTION SLIP

**POOR ORIGINAL**

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