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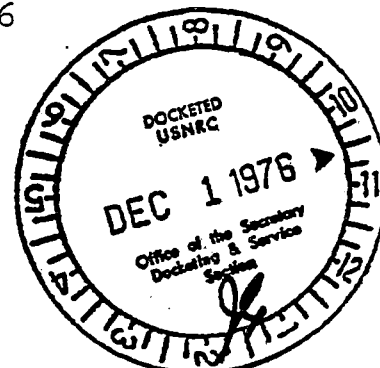
## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 17, 1976

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The Honorable William A. Anders  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Anders:

Enclosed is a letter which I recently received from a constituent, Ms. Frieda Berryhill. I believe her letter is self-explanatory.

In view of the serious nature of the charges made by Ms. Berryhill, I would appreciate your providing me with a report.

In addition, I can find no record of having received a reply to my letter of August 27, 1976 concerning Ms. Berryhill's charge that Salem I was licensed in the absence of an agreement of cooperation with the local fire company. I trust I will receive a reply in the near future.

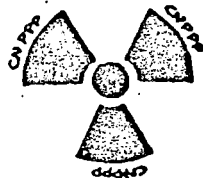
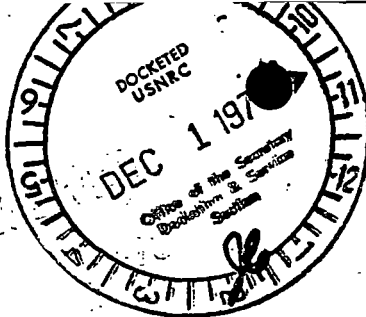
Sincerely,

*Bill Roth*  
William V. Roth, Jr.  
U. S. Senate

WVR/bd

Enclosure

50-311  
A-12



Frieda Berryhill  
2610 Grendon Drive  
Heritage Park  
Wilmington, De. 19808

W-4

Coalition for Nuclear Power Plant Postponement

810 West 25th Street  
19802

November 5th 1976

Wilmington, Delaware  
652-2456

Senator William V. Roth, Jr.  
Federal Bldg.  
Wilmington, De. 19899

Dear Senator Roth:

My sincere congratulation on your re-election, I am looking forward to a continuation of your good record concerning the nuclear power issues. During the campaign however, events took place which I feel are of interest to you.

Mr. Ronald Fluegge a reactor engineer resigned from the NRC. His resignation deals specifically with Salem I, which is now fueled and has a license to test at 1% capacity. As reported in Nucleonics Week of Oct. 28th, Fluegge is most concerned with the pressurized water reactor (PWR) vessel overpressurization phenomenon and the way technical issues like this are suppressed by the NRC.

Fluegge says there was a vessel overpressurization incident at Indian Point 2 on Sept. 12 and another at Indian Point 3 on Sept. 30th. There was a near-incident at Salem 1 on Sept. 24 and this was a case of repressing facts. He charges that although the NRC knew about the generic overpressurisation problem (it sent a letter to PWR owners on August 11th asking for their ideas) it went ahead with issuing an operating license to Salem I in late July or early August.

Fluegge alleges that he prepared a overpressurization section of the safety evaluation report on Salem I prior to license issuance but was told to take it out of the final document in case it held up the licensing and led to new public hearings. (Please see my letter to the NRC of August 23rd in which I stated that license was fraudulantly obtained because of failure to secure the co-operation of fire and rescue squad which is an NRC requirement. Such a letter was then obtained from the Mayor of Lower Alloway Creek without the knowledge and notification of the Fire Chief.) License was then received at the same time the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington issued a moratorium on further licensing of nuclear power plants.

Mr. Fluegge also stated that there are about 21 colleagues in technical review at the NRC who have similar concerns and misgivings, although they do not all intend to resign. They are basically upset about the overzealousness on NRC's part to smooth out the licensing process.

After pursuing the answers to the above charges we have now been supplied the following "facts" from Mr. Abraham of the NRC, a tape of which was aired on WJIG at 9:30 AM on November 4th at Salem N.J.

On September 15th (not 24th, it takes 10 days for the reports to reach the NRC) there was an accidental valve closing causing rising pressure.

On September 20th a feedline broke indicating overpressurization.

Mr. Abraham said he did not know ( and did not seem to want to find out) about charges of suppression of facts prior to issuance of license.

A few days after the second incident I received a call from Mr. Wally Judd from the News Journal asking me if I had heard about a "leak" in Salem and that he had some calls indicating that there might have been such an accident. I told him that this was highly Unlikely at this stage of plant operation but that I was concerned about a much greater danger. The NRC had just requested the use of recycled plutonium in mixed oxide fuel without license modification, and that I was anxiously awaiting Dr. Paulsens decision from the Department of Environmental Protection of New Jersey.

The following is conjecture on my part:

I had forgotten the "Leak" rumour until yesterday when the news reports came in about an unusual amount of dead ducks being found in Lower Delaware at Bobby Hooks..This mysterious duck kill is being attributed to botulism. However, hunters are being instructed to subject the ducks to rigorous washing before eating. For botulism ?

Hope Creek I and II are not yet constructed and could be stopped. Do we really have to look forward to having to live within 20 miles of four nuclear reactors? Dr. Ralph Lapp a strong nuclear advocate says they should be built in remote areas - they are not. Dr. Theodore Teller a strong nuclear advocate says they should be built underground - they are not.

No reply is necessary, the above is intended to be only informative; To be the groundwork however, for all the help we need should DP&L announce before the end of the year, to build yet another nuclear power plant in our back yards.

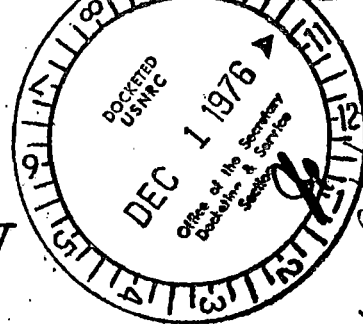
Sincerely

*Frieda Benyhill*  
Chairman

cc: Senator Joseph R. Biden  
Rep. William J. Hughes, N.J.  
Rep. Pierre S. DuPont  
Mr. Thomas Evans  
Rep. Joseph P. Ambrosino  
Mr. Wally Judd News Journal Co.

Anderson & Whitten

# Dim View of Nuclear Energy



By JACK ANDERSON  
and LES WHITTEN  
United Feature

WASHINGTON—Hidden in a technical report, stamped with stern secrecy warnings, are findings that could affect the lifestyle of every American.

The page study strongly suggests that the nuclear reactors, which the government is counting on to produce 40 per cent of America's future electric power, may never get beyond the blueprints.

This could mean that Americans tomorrow may no longer enjoy the unlimited use of lights, heaters, air conditioners and other home appliances.

Even automobile driving may be restricted unless government planners stop making promises and start developing other fuel sources.

Only a few key officials have had access to the disturbing study. This terse warning appears on the cover: Recipients ... must not show or release its contents for purposes other than official review and comment under any circumstances.

We reason to believe, however, that the stark findings may be watered down before they are released to the public. The American people are entitled to know the



Anderson

truth in its original scientific form, without political censorship. We have summarized the highlights, therefore, of the secret General Accounting Office report.

It deals with liquid metal fast breeder reactors, which the technicians know by the initials LMFBR. The study, characteristic of scientific research, is cautious. But these clear conclusions can be drawn:

—The development of the fast breeder has been impeded by bureaucratic balkanization. There has been absolutely no government coordination worth noting. More than 100 separate agencies, committees and other entities have a voice in the development.

—Federal nuclear experts have grossly misled the public about the risks. The report contends that the safety of the fast breeder is highly speculative.

—Its financing by private industry, contrary to official statements, probably will prove impossible. The technology has already cost a hefty \$2.8 billion.

—Government planners are concentrating almost exclusively on the fast breeder, with an all-the-eggs-in-one-basket abandon. Yet it not only may never work, but the economic fuel reprocessing may never be achieved. Theoretically, the fast breeder should produce more fuel than it uses. But a failure to achieve reprocessing would eliminate it as a cheap energy source.

—Even if the fast breeders overcome all the obstacles and become operative, it will cost an estimated \$153 billion to build the same energy capacity that could be constructed for \$128 billion with conventional reactors and \$95 billion with coal-fired power plants.

—If the LMFBR program fizzles, as now seems likely, the nation will have no alternative but to enforce energy conservation on the public. This would introduce the strict, regulated use of energy. For alternate energy sources, such as fusion, solar energy, sea wave generators, wind energy and shale oil, are either inadequate or a generation away.

—As evidence that the nuclear program is stalling, the report declares: Only four new reactor plants (of any kind) were ordered in 1975 and only one plant was ordered during the first six months of 1976. Since the beginning of 1974, orders for over 200 reactors were deferred and nearly 30 were cancelled.

Public opposition to nuclear plants has gathered support in many states. Not only environmental but financial obstacles have blocked construction.

The fast breeder, meanwhile, is so experimental that even a small, 380-megawatt test plant cannot be ready before 1983. And no single, commercial-sized reactor has been tested or even designed in the U.S., the study points out.

Nor has anyone yet coordinated the four factors needed to process fast breeders — building the plant, producing the fuel, reprocessing the used plutonium and disposing of the lethal wastes.

The nuclear development is snarled almost beyond hope in a maze of agencies and committees, with conflicting jurisdiction. Declares the report dismally: On Capitol Hill alone, 33 committees, 65 subcommittees and one panel claim some jurisdiction over the Energy

Research and Development Administration ... Twenty-nine different federal agencies share responsibility for recommending comprehensive national energy policy.

This doesn't take into account the numerous private utilities, financial houses, manufacturers and citizens groups that are also involved in the program. These factors all add up to delay.

At best, it will take 13 years to build a commercial reactor, 10 years to get the fuel fabricated and 12 years to construct a fuel reprocessing facility.

And at least 10 years will be needed to prepare a permanent disposal dump in the remote Southwest where the deadly wastes can be safely buried and kept from contaminating the environment for the necessary thousands of years.

The secret study all but rejects out of hand the two most optimistic schedules for the development of the LMFBR technology. Its conservative estimate is that only six fast breeders will be in operation by the year 2000.

The economic feasibility of these few plants won't be known until early in the next century.

The possibility also remains that the problems of safety, pollution and fuel reprocessing could block the fast breeders altogether.

The report, in part a model for setting national energy policy, pleads eloquently for a firm decision to coordinate efforts with goals. Otherwise, the United States might be compelled to return, at least part time, to candles and bicycles.

The LMFBR does have combustion facility and can explode like a gigantic hydrogen bomb. Read enclosed letter written by a french scientist to "Critical Mass".

*We are running out of uranium by 1990 the nuclear industry is dead without the breeders*