

JAMES R. JONES
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

July 25, 1979

DOCKET NUMBER

PROD. & UTIL. FAC. 50-556557

Mr. Shelton Wolfe
Chairman
Atomic Safety & Licensing Board
(Black Fox)
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

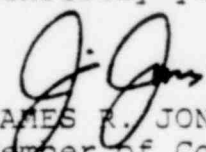


Dear Mr. Wolfe:

Enclosed is a letter from my constituent, Mr. and Mrs. Farrell regarding the licensing of Black Fox Nuclear plant. I would appreciate your reviewing this letter and making it part of the public record.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,


JAMES R. JONES
Member of Congress

Enclosure

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July 18, 1979

Representative James R. Jones
203 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20515



Dear Representative Jones:

Upon reading a copy of the letter from your office to Joseph Hendrie of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, regarding the proposed Black Fox Station, we would again like to emphasize our concern about the project.

For a year we have been reading anything we could find about nuclear energy- pro and con. As part of Concerned Mothers Coalition in Tulsa, I participated in a lengthy meeting with PSO officials- most of whom you have probably met- Dick Risk, John Zink, John Baseal, John West, Bill Reid, and two of the company's vice-presidents. Also, a representative of General Electric briefly visited the session. As a result of this communication and education effort, we are more convinced than ever that nuclear energy- especially Black Fox- is not a necessary nor acceptable answer to our energy needs.

More than economics must be considered. You have expressed concern for the health and safety of the public. The PSO scientists and officials we met with told us that while they were gathering information about nuclear plants, they consulted no medical or health experts- all their education came from representatives of GE, Babcock and Wilcox, and Westinghouse. Obviously, these representatives were trying to sell their respective products. How many salesmen are willing to admit to a prospective customer that there are health and safety problems with those products?

The fact that licensing and construction procedures are so complicated indicates that there are inherent dangers in nuclear facilities. But PSO's parent company, Central and Southwest System, is heavily committed to nuclear power. The decision to build Black Fox was undoubtedly made years ago by a corporation which has planned long and well to make sure this station would be built. How can we suppose that such a big business is more concerned about the quality of life for a few people than seeking benefits for its stockholders? How can we naively believe that this company, with so much at stake, would not use political pressure not available to mere citizens to assure those plans? Norma Eagleton told Concerned Mothers that

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three years ago, a bill was introduced into the Oklahoma Legislature to authorize advance certification of generating facilities, but it was not approved. We suspect it was not approved because PSO did not want it to be approved.

But beyond the frustration and anger raised by getting involved in the politics of big business and government is still the health and safety issue of nuclear power. Dr. John West, PSO nuclear engineer, told us that "rapidly growing organisms" are most vulnerable to the effects of radiation- even the low-level radiation constantly emitted by normally functioning plants. Dr. West was trying to avoid using the word "children". The nuclear industry anticipates killing a given number of people (see the BEIR Report released this spring), and considers these deaths part of an acceptable price for electricity.

It is our (admittedly faint) hope that the construction permit for Black Fox Station will be denied. If not, it will ultimately be denied by the people- who were never asked if they were willing to accept the known and unknown risks of a nuclear facility. We are expected to sit quietly and not bother the government or industry while they go about their important tasks of providing for us. We should be grateful for our cancers and leukemias because at least we have electricity to enjoy our final moments.

This issue has already become a political one, sure to be a major one in the coming elections. As more and more people become educated and concerned about nuclear power, they will give their support to those candidates who represent their views. We would like to see you, an important person in government for Oklahoma, stay in your position. However, we must actively support someone who has our best interests at heart. Your letter to Joseph Hendrie leaves us with the distinct impression that you feel there is no question that Black Fox will be built, indeed, that it should already have been built. We beg to differ.

Sincerely,

Dennis Farrell Susan Farrell

Dennis and Susan Farrell
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