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CONTACT: Ken Burton
202-225-2844
Henry Myers
202-225-8331

UDALL SCHEDULES ZIMMER NUCLEAR PLANT HEARING

Congressman Morris K. Udall, D-Arizona, has scheduled an Energy and the Environment Subcommittee hearing for September 14 to "gain a better picture of the Zimmer nuclear power plant" and the subsequent breakdown of the project's quality assurance.

"The hearing scheduled for Tuesday is a direct result of my not being satisfied with information that we have been provided to date," said Udall, who chairs the subcommittee and the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

Udall said he wants to delve into five areas that must be examined prior to issuance of an operating license for the power plant, located near Cincinnati, Ohio:

- Deficient weld procedures.
- Apparent falsification of weld procedure test data.
- Insufficient documentation to demonstrate that many of the 2000 welders who worked at the Zimmer site were qualified for the work they performed.
- The chemical and physical properties of certain safety-related piping cannot be documented.
- Significant quantities of safety-related materials were purchased from vendors not qualified to supply such materials.

Udall said he is concerned as well that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission did not require an independent audit of the Zimmer plant. "It seems unrealistic to have confidence that the company that neglected quality assurance for so many years, will, on its own, fully uncover the deficiencies resulting from its neglect," Udall said.

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"My intent now is to compile a record that gives a much better picture than has been presented to date of the status and prognosis of the Zimmer project. I hope to get an idea of the major corrective actions now known to be necessary prior to plant operation, and I also want to know what will happen if existing uncertainties can't be resolved," Udall said.

Witnesses include James Keppler, director of Region III and associates of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Earl A. Borgmann, senior vice president and Harlan Sager, manager of quality assurance for Cincinnati Gas & Electric; Donald Iselin, group vice president, Kaiser Engineers; Donald Milan, chief, Division of Boiler Inspection, State of Ohio; Richard Jagger, assistant Director of Inspections and National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors; Thomas Devine, legal director, Government Accountability Project and David Altman, chairman, Cincinnati Environmental Advisory Council.

The hearing, in room 1324 of the Longworth House Office Building, will begin at 9:30 a.m.

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment

Oversight Hearing

Quality Assurance at the Zimmer Nuclear Station

September 14, 1982; 9:45 A.M.; Room 1324 Longworth Building

Witness List

PANEL I

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Mr. James Keppler, Director Region III, and associates

PANEL II

Cincinnati Gas and Electric

Mr. Earl A. Borgmann, Senior Vice-President

Mr. Harlan Sager, Manager, Quality Assurance

Kaiser Engineers

Mr. Donald Iselin, Group Vice-President

State of Ohio

Mr. Donald Milan, Chief, Division of Boiler Inspection

Mr. Richard Jagger, Assistant Director of Inspections
National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors

Panel III

Government Accountability Project (GAP)

Mr. Thomas Devine, Legal Director

Cincinnati Environmental Advisory Council

Mr. David Altman, Chairman