

Mrs. J. Augustine
700 N. Powell Rd.
Essexville, Mi. 48732

United States Senate

4/24/74

Respectfully referred to:

A.E.C.

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

Shirley M. Kennedy
U.S.S.

Form #2

DR 7006

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Rec'd Off. Dir. of Res.
Date 4/30/74
Time 11:35

7/15 AEC April 8, 1974

Dear Senator Kennedy,

A situation has just come to my attention that is so alarming that I'm sure you will take steps to investigate it. Consumers Power Company has a nuclear facility, Palisades, at Grand Haven, Michigan, which has had several leaks and minor accidents now being investigated by the Atomic Energy Commission.

The workers who operate the plant have received, over a period of time, maximum allowable dosages of radiation, must wear badges indicating they have been contaminated, and then by order of the company must leave the plant to work in another non-nuclear plant in order to "recover".

In the process they are contaminated against their wills and subject to much mental anguish. Whether or not they will ever suffer physical after-effects remains a point of contention between the AEC and Consumers who maintain the exposures are safe and concerned scientists and physicians who question the wisdom of any exposure to radiation.

The point - whether or not their physical damage is real-- the mental suffering is certain. They are fearful and upset about being contaminated. Then they are forced to leave wife, children, and friends, while transferred to a different plant to "cool off".

New workers are transferred in to take their places. These new men come, fearful and against their will, forced by a clause in their contract that states they are subject to such transfers. Such a clause was written before nuclear plants became an operational reality and the men feel they have been cheated and fooled. If they refuse to go it is a mark against their record and one of them has told me that three such marks result in the loss of their job.

Surely the civil liberties of these workers are being violated, and surely the country must develop better sources of energy than this risky nuclear power.

I think we can find workers to testify about these grievances if you could raise the issue.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. Augustine
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Essexville, MI 48732