

1188 Union Street
Marseilles, Illinois 61341-1749
January 27, 1996

Commissioner Shirley Jackson
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Commissioner Jackson:

Attached is a copy of a letter appearing recently in "The Ottawa Daily Times." When I read this, I found it most disturbing.

My husband and I, and numerous other local people were very disturbed at the thought of a nuclear power plant "in our backyard" so to speak. Nevertheless, Commonwealth Edison built the La Salle Station and our fear and concern is constant, although it has operated without a major mishap.

Recently Commonwealth Edison was able to gain approval for lowering their operating costs by implementing new, lower standards for their guards. This, of course, did nothing for our peace of mind! Now, according to Mr. Coffee's letter (attached) they are attempting to also lower their standards by replacing their skilled labor with unskilled labor. The bottom line these days seems to be the lowest cost possible to operate, whether it be nuclear plants, health care, etc. This is a sad commentary on the safety of such a facility as a nuclear power plant. We hope that Commonwealth Edison will not be allowed to follow the cost-cutting course in this matter that they did with their security force at La Salle Station.

Please consider the safety of those of us in the surrounding communities of the La Salle Station when you consider these matters. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gerbert R. Denniger
Mrs. Gerbert Denniger

Attachment

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

'Result of the ongoing labor dispute'

To the editor:

I am submitting this letter to inform the readers of La Salle County of impending problems that could arise as a result of the ongoing labor dispute between ComEd and IBEW Local 15.

As most in the area are aware, ComEd owns and operates six nuclear generating stations in Northern Illinois. One of these plants is located in Brookfield Township south of Marseilles. Of the approximately 18,000 ComEd employees, IBEW Local Union 15 represents about 9,300 persons who are responsible for generating, transmitting and servicing the customers supplied by ComEd.

Since April 1, 1995, the 9,300 Local 15 members have been working without a contract as a result of ComEd's refusal to sit down and negotiate in good faith. On Jan. 1 (after record profits in 1995), ComEd IMPOSED its own version of what it thought was a fair contract. In doing so, ComEd removed all of the guarantees that skilled and experienced workers would operate and maintain its nuclear facilities. In reality, the new contract language gives ComEd the ability to REPLACE its skilled labor with unskilled

labor at a fraction of the cost.

I am sure that most of you have read the recent articles in Chicago and local newspapers regarding concerns that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has with ComEd's ability to safely operate and manage its nuclear plants. In the event that the on-going labor dispute results in Local 15 members walking off the job in protest, will ComEd managers be able to safely run these units?

In the aftermath of the Chernobyl incident it was discovered that persons who should have NEVER been at the controls and making decisions were allowed to do so. Will people with no recent practical or on-the-job experience be allowed to run and maintain ComEd plants?

Do the readers of this newspaper have a concern about the safety of their families, neighbors, and communities? If so, I would suggest you write the NRC and ask what they will be doing to protect your safety! United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Commissioner Shirley Jackson, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.

GUY COFFEE
Ottawa