

Commissioner Shirley Jackson  
11545 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Md. 20852

January 23, 1996

Dear Commissioner Jackson,

I live in northern Illinois, within the area that Commonwealth Edison services with its six nuclear plants. Last fall, a story in the Chicago Tribune covered a meeting you had with the top officials of Com Ed. The article basically talked about your concerns regarding the safe operation of their nuclear plants, one or two in particular.

In light of this article, it has been brought to my attention that a labor dispute is brewing between the people who run these power plants and the Com Ed managers. I know it is not the place for your governmental agency to interfere in labor matters. However, I do know it is the responsibility of the NRC to protect the public from events of a nuclear nature, both major and minor, that can happen at these power plants.

If the people who normally operate these nuclear plants end up not going to work, how can and how will the NRC guarantee the public safety? I have seen in magazines and on television, enough information about the Chernobyl plant, to understand how people played a part. People who should have never been at the controls and making decisions were allowed to do so. Can the same thing happen at the Com Ed plants? Can the Com Ed management people really operate these plants, or is the truth of the matter they have not touched the real reactor controls in months or years? I guess what I am asking is, can large groups of people who have

had no recent practical or on the job experience, be allowed to run these nuclear plants? I believe this is a genuine concern!

Again, I know the NRC cannot interfere in labor disputes. However, it is clearly the NRC's responsibility to absolutely guarantee the safety of the public will not be jeopardized.

I know you are very busy, but thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,  
L. Butler

96-0073

Lisa L. Baker  
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United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Commissioner Shirley Jackson  
11545 Brookville Pike  
Brookville, Md 20352

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