ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON
1ST DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1801
November 19, 1992

Mr. Ivan Selin
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Selin:

Enclosed please find communication I have recently received from one of my constituents for your consideration. I would greatly appreciate your complying with their request, if possible.

I would appreciate your advising me of your action in this matter and return the letters with your reply to my Washington office.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. LIVINGSTON
Member of Congress

RLL/tf

Enclosure

on 12/21/93
XA (9301040190) 3pp.

Monica Peri
6424 Louis XIV
New Orleans, LA 70124

8-28-92

Dear Mr. Livingston,

I am enclosing a newspaper clipping for you to read because the problem that it describes worries me. I am hoping that you, as representative, will work to protect the people of this state from this and other dangers posed by the presence of nuclear power plants.

I would also like to see legislation passed which encourages the use of safe power sources such as solar and wind.

Sincerely,
Monica Peri

protect from dangers of nuclear

electrical systems are designed as a second way of shutting down an atomic reaction in the event of a plant emergency.

The material also is used

are required standards. Thermo-Lag's manufacturer, Thermal Science Inc. of St. Louis, used a company called Industrial Testing Laboratories of St. Louis to certify the tests, even though ITI

Plea to close La. nuclear plant denied by agency

By PAUL RECER
AP science writer

WASHINGTON — Improperly tested fire insulation was built into 80 to 100 U.S. nuclear power reactors, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission declined to act on reports of problems with the material, an NRC inspector general's report says.

The report, released this week, says NRC staff "did not conduct an adequate review" of testing of Thermo-Lag 330-1, a fire protection material. The federal agency also did not promptly investigate reports of problems with Thermo-Lag, the report said.

Despite this, the NRC on Wednesday denied a petition from the Nuclear Information and Resource Service asking that the River Bend power plant in Louisiana be shut down because it used Thermo-Lag. The NIRS is a watchdog environmental group.

River Bend is operated by Gulf States Utilities Inc., and uses Thermo-Lag extensively in the plant to protect electrical systems that power the plant's controls. Company officials have said it could cost as much as $5 million to remove or repair the material.

In a letter denying the petition, NRC official Thomas E. Murley said the agency "will take appropriate action ... within a reasonable time."

Thermo-Lag is used in nuclear reactors to protect back-up electrical systems from fire. These electrical systems are designed as a second way of shutting down an atomic reaction in the event of a plant emergency.

nuclear plant in Taft, operated by Louisiana Power & Light Co., and the Grand Gulf 1 nuclear plant in Port Gibson, Miss., which supplies power to LP&L and New Orleans Public Service Inc.

NRC Chairman Ivan Selin ordered an investigation to determine why problems with Thermo-Lag were not detected and corrected earlier.

NRC spokesman Joe Fouchard said the agency in June issued instructions to power companies to determine where Thermo-Lag was used in their plants.

The agency also suggested that power companies assign people to conduct fire patrols around the atomic plants "as an added precaution because of the possible ineffectiveness of this material."

Such fire watches are operating at River Bend, Waterford 3 and Grand Gulf, company officials have said.

Thermo-Lag was developed after a 1975 fire at the Browns Ferry nuclear plant in Alabama. It has been used in the atomic power industry for more than 10 years.

NRC regulations require that barriers protecting the electrical systems be fire resistant for one hour if there is a sprinkler system, or for three hours without sprinklers.

The NRC inspector general's report said the NRC approved Thermo-Lag for use in power plants even though tests on the material were not performed at the required standards. Thermo-Lag's manufacturer, Thermal Science Inc. of St. Louis, used a company called Industrial [illegible]

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SYSTEM
DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHECKLIST

This checklist is be submitted with each document (or group of Qs/As) sent for ing into the CCS.

1. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT(S) Ltr. to Rep. Livingston

2. TYPE OF DOCUMENT ✓ Correspondence ____ Hearings (Qs/As)

3. DOCUMENT CONTROL ____ Sensitive (NRC Only) ✓ Non-Sensitive

4. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE and SUBCOMMITTEES (if applicable)

_____ Congressional Committee

_____ Subcommittee

5. SUBJECT CODES

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

6. SOURCE OF DOCUMENTS

(a) ____ S520 (document name _____

(b) ✓ Scan. (c) ____ Attachments

(d) ____ Rakey (e) ____ Other _____

7. SYSTEM LOG DATES

(a) 1/12/93 Date OCA sent document to CCS

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8. COMMENTS 130046

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