



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

November 25, 1992

The Honorable John Glenn, Chairman  
Committee on Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In your letter of October 28, 1992, you urged the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to work closely with local area residents and government officials to ensure their full understanding of a proposal by the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI) to build a low-level radioactive waste processing and storage facility for its Perry Nuclear Power Plant.

The Commission recognizes that the CEI proposal has generated much public interest in the Lake County and Cleveland metropolitan areas. In response to this public concern, the NRC attended a CEI public information meeting on August 14, 1992, and held its own public meeting at the Lake County Community College on October 1, 1992. I can assure you that the NRC staff also plans to keep local government officials and the public abreast of its findings and decisions.

Based on current regulations and guidance, NRC's regulatory role with respect to the planned five-year storage facility is limited to confirmatory review of the adequacy of the safety evaluation the licensee performs under 10 CFR 50.59 and to inspection to confirm that actions are carried out consistent with the findings of an adequate 50.59 evaluation. No licensing action is normally involved. For this proposal, staff is reviewing the licensee's 50.59 evaluation in an expedited and detailed manner to ensure that any concerns are resolved before construction begins. We plan to continue to actively follow CEI's proposal.

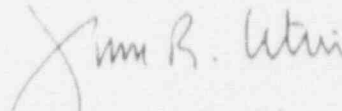
Further, NRC has been petitioned to take additional regulatory actions. A petition filed by the Lake County Commissioners under 10 CFR Part 2.206 requests that the NRC hold a public hearing prior to construction of the facility and that we suspend construction until an environmental impact statement is prepared and NRC institutes regulations regarding long-term storage of radioactive waste. The NRC staff will be responding to that petition in the near future.

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PDR COMMS NRCC  
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

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With respect to your request for a briefing, I understand that our staffs have already discussed the CEI proposal and that a further briefing at this time is not needed. We will continue to keep you informed of developments as the NRC's review progresses and will be pleased to provide a briefing on this matter at any time. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James R. Curtiss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

James R. Curtiss  
Acting Chairman

cc: Senator William V. Roth, Jr.