

CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION

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Chapter Organizations:
Huron Environmentalists Action League
TriCounty Residents for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination

February 2, 1993

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(57FR 28645)

Ivan Selin, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Dr. Selin,

I am writing to you regarding the proposal to site, construct and load casks at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant with spent fuel rods within 150 yards of the shores of Lake Michigan.

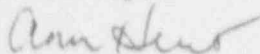
I join my voice with those of citizens throughout the Basin in calling for a public hearing on this issue in the Covert area. This proposal has such a potential impact on the Great Lakes Basin that it cannot be permitted to go ahead without a full public hearing.

In your presentation before the American Nuclear Society and the European Nuclear Society in Chicago, November 17, 1992, you stated, "The nuclear industry, and perhaps nuclear regulators as well, have sometimes acted as though public participation were a necessary evil rather than a positive force in NRC processes... First, the interested public often does have a valuable substantive contribution to make. Moreover, a process from which the public is shut out is a process in which the public will have no confidence... public credibility cannot be achieved without public participation, and without public credibility, nuclear power in the United States will never see a renewal."

Please remember and heed these words and open this process to the public. Without a public hearing, with its impact and weight, the public will have no faith in the decisions by the regulators to allow the siting of these casks. Furthermore, a public hearing has the added weight of requiring the NRC to respond to the issues of merit that are raised during the process. Because the casks are likely to remain on site for the foreseeable future, a delay of two or three months to allow a hearing to be held will not be significant.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Ann Hunt
Executive Director

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