

Docket Nos.: 50-440
and 50-441

MAY 24 1985

Mr. Milton Hite
2683 Larchview Drive
Painesville, Ohio 44077

Dear Mr. Hite:

This letter is in response to the question you raised before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board hearing in the Perry Nuclear Power Plant Operating License Proceeding, during the limited appearance session of the hearing held on April 11, 1985 in Perry, Ohio. Your specific concern was about the effect that methane gas, produced at a nearby landfill, may have on the Perry plant. In stating your concern, you referred to an article in the News Herald that discusses the concerns of homeowners that live in the area near the landfill site.

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has investigated the matter and has found that the landfill referred to in the News Herald article is located on the border of Lake Cuyahoga and Geauga counties. As determined from a map of the area, the minimum distance from the landfill to the Perry plant site is at least 15 miles. At this distance, emission of methane gas from the landfill would have no adverse effect on the safe operation of the Perry plant. Methane gas is lighter than air. Hence, its buoyancy leads to an upward rise and dispersion with minimal horizontal transport. The production of methane gas at this landfill, and the concern of the homeowners in the area of the landfill, appears to be of local interest which should be resolved by the authorities within that jurisdiction.

I hope that this response satisfactorily addresses the question you raised at the Perry hearing. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me by mail or by telephone at 301/492-7037.

Sincerely,

John J. Stefano, Project Manager
Licensing Branch No. 1
Division of Licensing

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