

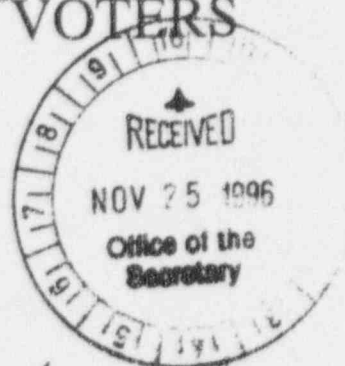


THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ROCKFORD

Anna May Haycraft
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of NRC LWFV 12E20
Washington, D.C. 20555

DSI-5
(23)

1701 Stratton Lane
Rockford, IL 61107
Nov. 15, 1996
(815) 399-0089



Dear Anna May Haycraft

I was pleased to receive a telephone call this morning which informed me that the deadline for comments on the Strategic Assessments and Rebaseline Initiative had been extended.

After I receive NRC material that is being sent to me, I will send in additional comments/information.

Enclosed is some information which I accidentally omitted from the comments and material sent to you in my haste to mail it by the Nov. 15th deadline.

One prize for the D.O.E.'s public education initiatives which included funding in addition to that provided by the League of Women Voters National Education Fund for an excellent Conference, "Hot Rods, Cold Facts, What Shall We Do With Nuclear Waste?" held in Rockford in October, 1994. The local Committee produced a one hour video summary of the Conference which we use for public information & education.

(2) A copy of the National League of Women Voters position on energy, and a recent guest editorial I wrote for the Rockford Newspaper about the Rockford League's intervention in the Operating License of Commonwealth Edison's Byron Nuclear Power Plant.

If you have questions, or need more information, please contact me.



Sincerely,
Betty Johnson



Energy

as announced by the national board, March 1978

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the United States cannot and should not sustain its historical rate of energy consumption. Not only as a responsible member of the world community but also in the national interest, the United States must make a significant and progressive reduction in its energy growth rate. To achieve this goal, the nation must develop and implement energy strategies that—while taking account of differences in the needs and resources of states and regions—give precedence to the national good.

Between now and the year 2000, while arriving at long-term energy strategies, the United States should develop and use a mix of energy sources based on the following policies:

- Top priority must be given to conservation; renewable resources, especially solar heating and cooling, bioconversion and wind; and the environmentally sound use of coal.
- Dependence on imported energy supplies must be reduced.
- Because finite supplies of domestic oil and natural gas must be conserved, reliance on these sources should not be increased.
- Reliance on nuclear fission (light water reactors) should not be increased. Special attention must be given to solving waste disposal and other health and safety problems associated with this energy source.

Beyond the year 2000, the United States should rely predominantly on renewable resources. To make this change possible, the federal government should:

- give top priority to conservation and to the development and use of solar heating and cooling, solar electricity and bioconversion;
- emphasize energy-efficient technologies, especially cogeneration and district heating;
- support the development of fusion and geothermal energy;
- give extremely low priority to the plutonium breeder reactor.

To achieve a reduced energy growth rate and the optimum mix of sources and technologies, the federal government should:

- use research and development funds, tax incentives and loan guarantees to encourage business, industry and individual consumers to conserve energy and to shift toward the development and use of renewable resources;
- use tax disincentives to promote energy conservation and, in the case of individual consumers, to foster the use of renewable resources;
- gradually deregulate oil and natural gas prices and at the same time tax windfall profits attributable to deregulation;
- set mandatory standards for energy conservation.

Federal standards and compliance timetables that protect the environment should not be relaxed in pursuit of national energy goals.

In developing national energy strategies, the federal government should spread costs and benefits (environmental, social, economic, health) as equitably as possible. In keeping with this criterion, states and regions should take steps to maximize conservation and to utilize their indigenous, renewable resources. There should be assistance for low-income individuals, when changes would bear unduly on the poor.

In the distribution of roles and responsibilities, the following principles should apply:

- The processes used to develop and implement national energy strategies should give a voice to all levels of government.

- The federal government should set national standards to reach policy objectives. States may set more stringent standards, within the context of national policy. Implementation and enforcement of national standards should be primarily at the state level.
- States and regions should cooperate with each other and with the federal government to achieve national energy goals.
- Public understanding and cooperation are essential to the success of any national energy strategy. Citizen participation in decision making must be assured at every governmental level.

Committee still monitors Byron plant

By BETTY JOHNSON

Special to the Register Star

I am writing this column to add important material that should have been included in the recent article, "Safety standards," about the Byron nuclear power plant (Byron plant.)

As natural resources chair of the Rockford League of Women Voters, the committee members and I are responsible for a local program item that includes "continuing to monitor the Byron plant safety procedures."

This program item originated from the league's intervention in the operating license (OL) for the Byron plant and a national league position on energy, adopted in 1978 after completion of study and consensus by local leagues throughout the United States.

The national league's position on nuclear power states: "Nuclear fission (light water reactors) should not be increased and special attention must be given to solving waste disposal and prob-

GUEST COLUMN



Betty Johnson

lems associated with this energy source."

In January 1979, as chair of the Rockford League's intervention committee, I submitted to the Nuclear

Regulatory Commission a petition to intervene in the operating license for the Byron plant. DAARE and SAFE joined our intervention effort. On Jan. 13, 1984, after extensive local hearings, the Byron plant's OL was denied by the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board because of safety concerns with design and construction at the plant. This was the only denial of a nuclear power plant OL ever granted by the NRC.

Commonwealth Edison filed for an appeal of the OL decision.

After local remand hearings in July and August of 1984, an OL for the Byron plant was granted on Oct. 16, 1984, by the NRC's board.

In 1988, I successfully petitioned the NRC on behalf of the Rockford League and DAARE to deny Edison's request to "issue amendments to the Byron plant's OL which would allow operation on a 90-day emergency basis during drought conditions when the flow of the Rock River is below 700 cubic feet per second" because of health and safety concerns.

Since the Byron plant OL intervention, I continue to receive all NRC notices. Of special concern are recent ones that focus on serious steam generator problems that may require costly replacements. This was one of the intervention issues.

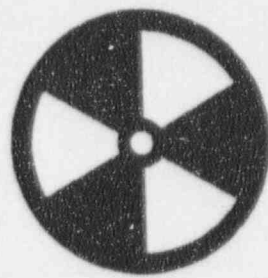
On Oct. 15, 1994, a nuclear waste management community education workshop entitled "Hot Rods, Cold Facts, What Shall We Do With Nuclear Waste?" was held at Rockford College. It was funded by the U.S. Department of

Energy and the league's education fund. Topping the list of dangerous, unresolved safety problems was: the storage and disposal of high level radioactive waste (HLRW) and low level radioactive waste (LLRW) generated by all nuclear power plants. HLRW from nuclear power plants, mostly spent fuel rods, is in storage in Illinois while waiting for the federal government to solve problems related to finding a permanent waste repository.

Because of the large number of nuclear power plants in Illinois, this state leads all others in the generation of LLRW. In 1986, Illinois had 78.7 percent of the LLRW by volume in the United States and 99 percent of its radioactivity. States are responsible for finding storage and/or disposal solutions for LLRW and some have had success by forming compacts, such as the Illinois-Kentucky-Central Midwest LLRW Compact.

Johnson is natural resources chair of The League of Women Voters of Rockford

NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKSHOP



**HOT RODS...
COLD FACTS**

What do we do with nuclear waste?

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. • Saturday, Oct. 15 • Starr Science Building • Rockford College

**Rockford College
5050 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108-2393**

*A Community Education Workshop funded by the
League of Women Voters Education Fund
in cooperation with the Department of Energy*

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