



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III

841 Chestnut Building  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

SEP 6 1985

SEP 6 85

Mr. Harold Denton  
Director, Office of Nuclear  
Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

We have recently learned of an application for a permit by the Philadelphia Electric Company to the Delaware River Basin Commission regarding a source of cooling water that heretofore has not been mentioned. The cooling water would be used by the Limerick Nuclear Power Facility and would come from a flooded abandoned mine near Pottsville, Pennsylvania, known as the Beechwood Pit, owned by the Reading Anthracite Company.

My staff has been unable to find any analytical information regarding the Beechwood Pit in past Environmental Impact Statements. While we realize the application is for a temporary permit, covering the low flow period of the end of the year, I believe the situation raises two questions:

- ° Have any impact analyses of the affects of this water on the quality of the Schuylkill River ever been carried out?
- ° Do the cooperating agencies believe additional EIS-related work is warranted?

In your consideration of this issue, please refer to the CEQ Regulation covering criteria for development of supplemental NEPA documents. These criteria can be found in 40 CFR 1502.9 (c).

Thank you for your attention in this matter and if any coordination is desired, please feel free to contact either Messrs. Richard Pepino or Robert Davis of my staff. Their phone numbers are, respectively, 597-9301 and 597-8327.

Sincerely,

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P PDR

*William T. Wisniewski*  
William T. Wisniewski  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
for Policy and Management

cc: George C. Kanuck, Jr.  
U.S. Commissioner,  
Delaware River Basin Commission

Gerald Hansler, DRPC

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