

January 22, 1974

Memo for Ralph Nader:

Points to emphasize in your addresses at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and at Central Michigan on January 29, 1974.

The majority of students on campuses know very little about the nuclear power issues. It is important that you teach them the basic safety, public health, waste disposal and sabotage issues.

Michigan's experience with nuclear has been exceptionally poor, and these facts should be emphasized.

Fermi #1 operated only about 100 hours when it had an accident that had been considered "incredible"-- a partial melt-down of the core. It never was brought back to full power operation. Last year, the AEC finally shut it down. While the fuel core can be removed and shipped elsewhere for burial, thirty thousand gallons of radioactive sodium remain to be stored in the state indefinitely. (This was an experimental fast breeder, and the coolant used was sodium.) The cost of Fermi #1 to the rate-payers was \$125,000,000 with no net gain of electricity.

Big Rock, a small 75 mg. plant, has had numerous accidental releases of radioactivity. The radioactivity in the biota and water life at the discharge channel was reported in 1970 by the Michigan Water Resources to be as high as the measureable radioactivity at the peak of atmospheric A-bomb testing.

(See stories from Detroit Free Press attached.)

Palisades has been down for a much longer time than it has been on line since it first got its operating license. It finally was given a full power license in December, 1972, and very soon developed excessive vibration in the core. Consumers Power Company did not report this to the AEC for 6 months, although they are required to do so. (See story "Mammoth Plant Plagued by Costly Repairs" attached.)

The intervention at Palisades had brought out the serious defects in quality control in the construction of that plant.

problems  
The quality control/at the Midland plant were so severe that the Midland Appeals Board issued a special warning to Consumers Power Company and asked for a firm commitment to do better before it affirmed the license. However, the lapses continued as

January 22, 1974

construction proceeded. Mr. Cherry watched the inspection reports and noted all of them to the Appeals Board and all attorneys involved. The Appeals Board finally issued a very strongly worded critical letter to the Director of Licensing Muntzing, which resulted in a Show Cause order asking Consumers to prove they could meet quality assurance standards or have construction shut down.

Nuclear promoters from Midland met with Director Muntzing to get him to permit construction to continue. An announced AEC inspection was held and a week later construction was allowed to continue. (See Saul Friedman's story attached.)

The AEC has announced the public hearing for the Show Cause order will be held.

Recently Consumers Power Company announced that the costs of the two 1200 mg. Quanicasseee Plants were already escalating at such a rate that they would be scrapped. The construction license has not been announced so there are no intervenors to blame for these costs.

Most important, the rising costs of the Midland n-plants-- from \$270 million to over \$940 million now--are the subject of contract negotiations now underway between Dow Chemical and Consumers Power Company. Also, the pattern of reliability of Michigan nuclear plants is so bad that Dow is worried over dependence for power and steam on plants that don't work.

This reflects poor reliability of other plants around the country. (See Saul Friedman's story attached, on poor plant reliability; also Louis Roddis's comments.)

Dow's U. S. Director of Research has stated to the technical group at Dow, that coal will be the primary source of energy for Dow in the U.S.A.

The University of Michigan Future World's committee wants you to emphasize the promise of solar power as an energy alternative.

The material sent to you on this has been prepared by the University of Michigan School of Architecture, which is working on conservation of energy in building design and designing for the use of clean sources of energy.

Mary Sinclair