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Folder Title:
York County Energy Partnership

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Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 12, 1994

Mr. Francis Xavier McKee
2442 Wedgewood Way
York, Pennsylvania 17404

Dear Mr. McKee:

This is in response to your letter of September 14, 1993, to Ms. Kathleen A. McGinty, Director of the White House Office on Environmental Policy, regarding the proposed York County Energy Partners (YCEP) coal-fired cogeneration facility that would be constructed in North Codorus Township, York County, Pennsylvania. Your letter raises important issues pertaining to the appropriateness of demonstrating circulating fluidized bed (CFB) technology and to potential environmental impacts that could result from the proposed project.

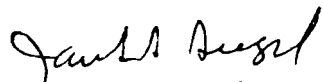
Regarding the technology to be demonstrated by the proposed project, YCEP concluded that the CFB technology is the most appropriate and economically feasible, and thus is the only alternative that meets their needs. There is no other technology that meets both our purpose of demonstrating this technology at the proposed scale of 250 megawatts-electric output and the industrial participant's objectives. Other designs that have been suggested, such as the Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle technology advocated in your letter, are being demonstrated elsewhere in the Clean Coal Technology Program. Their use by YCEP in this project would not contribute to the goals of the Program. If the proposed CFB technology is not demonstrated, the information required to demonstrate the feasibility of future commercial applications of this technology will not be available.

With regard to environmental aspects of the proposed project, the Department of Energy has initiated the process of reviewing the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We have determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the appropriate level of NEPA review. To that end, we have actively solicited public participation and comments on the proposed scope and content of the EIS in order to ensure that all of the issues related to this proposal are addressed. Public scoping meetings were held in the area on August 19 and October 5, 1993. The period for receipt of written comments or suggestions to assist the Department in identifying significant environmental issues and the appropriate scope of the EIS closed on November 5, 1993.

However, written comments postmarked after that date will be considered to the degree practicable. Accordingly, we have provided a copy of your letter to

Dr. Suellen Van Ooteghem, Environmental Project Manager for the YCEP project. Your concerns will be treated as comments received in response to scoping as noted above. Should you require additional information regarding this proposed project, please feel free to contact Dr. Van Ooteghem as follows: U.S. Department of Energy, Morgantown Energy Technology Center, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507-0880 (telephone: 304-284-5443).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack S. Siegel".

Jack S. Siegel
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Fossil Energy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 7, 1993

Mr. Francis Xavier McKee
2442 Wedgewood Way
York, PA 17404

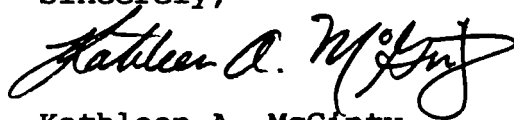
Dear Mr. McKee:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the proposed coal plant in York, Pennsylvania. It was good to hear from you, and thank you for your kind words of support.

As you know, the preservation of our environment continues to be one of this Administration's highest priorities. I certainly appreciate learning about your involvement in increasing public awareness about the potential environmental and health risks of the proposed coal plant in your community. With regard to your specific concerns about the technologies to be employed by the proposed plant, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to the Department of Energy. Rest assured that this Administration shares your concerns about the health and well-being of all Americans and especially our youth.

Again, thank you for sharing your views with me.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Director, White House Office on
Environmental Policy

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September 14, 1993

Kathleen A. McGinty
Director - White House Office on Environmental Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Kathleen,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits.

What a pleasure it was to read about you in the September 2, 1993 issue of The Catholic Standard and Times ! I, like you, am a product of the Philadelphia Catholic School system having graduated from St. Helena grade school, Cardinal Dougherty High, La Salle University and Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science. I once attended a prom at Hubert's (it seems sooo long ago). My wife, Jane, is a product of Ryan and Gwynedd Mercy College. Our children - Tom (age 11), Erin (8), Patrick (5) and Jenny (4) all attend St. Rose of Lime grade school in York, Pennsylvania. My career took me and my family to York several years ago. I still find my thoughts drifting to the Philadelphia area; our families still live there - my sisters and parents in Olney and Jane's family in Cornwells Heights.

It was during one such visit while reading the Catholic Standard that I learned about your assignment as President Clinton's deputy assistant and Director of the White House Office on Environmental Policy. I applaud you for all your efforts leading to such an appointment. Your Dad made it quite clear in the article all about your drive and determination. It is a similar drive in me that motivates this letter.

Kathleen, for almost two years I have been actively involved in the opposition of a federally sponsored project to place an experimental coal plant in the community of York. First, please understand - I am not an environmental extremist; I am a parent, a businessman and a taxpayer who is deeply troubled that \$75,000,000 of our tax money is being diverted to a project that has met broad based opposition from the York community. The 600 member York County Medical and Osteopathic Society, The South Central Chapter of the American Lung Association and a host of other organizations have taken a position of public opposition to the project. Also, the technology planned for use in the plant is one that has long since been surpassed by cleaner, more efficient coal combustion technology recently funded by our government, namely coal gasification (ICCCG). Coal gasification, according to federal documents, is 10 percentage points cleaner in SO₂ emission and 10 points more efficient, overall than the atmospheric fluidized bed technology (ACFB) planned for York. The ACFB project is part of the Clean Coal Technology initiative sponsored by the DOE.

The ACFB project is from Round I (circa 1986) where it was originally rejected. After emerging from the loser's list it was destined for Tallahassee, Florida. After the residents there rose up in opposition to it, the rights to the project were purchased and

September 15, 1993

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redirected to West Manchester Township located in York County, Pennsylvania. Our residents, like those in Tallahassee, rose up in opposition to the project and, through a variety of zoning tactics, were able to force the project from West Manchester. The sponsors of the project aimed it now to its third location in as many years to North Codorus Township near the site of the P.H. Glatfelter paper mill. You wouldn't believe that place! It makes Rohm and Haas in Philly or up in Bristol look like a cookie factory.

The people in North Codorus Township have risen up in opposition to the project however there is no local zoning ordinances on which to oppose it. It looks like the North Codorus Board of Supervisors (the chairman works for the paper mill) will be unable to oppose its location to their neighborhood.

Kathleen, my basis of opposition to the federal government's role in this project is the \$75,000,000 of our tax money going to technology that has already been proven more polluting and less efficient than later DOE sponsored ICCCG projects. I met privately with DOE officials and asked why the funding couldn't be transferred to the more recent ICCCG coal gasification technology, indicating that their very own literature and submissions to Congress state that coal gasification pollutes less and is more efficient. Our DOE officials responded that the technology couldn't be switched because of legislative restrictions. They suggested that I work to change that restriction. Contacting you represents part of that work.

We are in desperate need of someone with a clear head and sound judgment within our federal government to take this experimental plant head on. Most recently, signatures of over 10,000 York County residents who oppose this project were delivered to our Pennsylvania Senators. The air quality in our York Air Basin, in the words of Dave Wilson, Director of the Lung Association is "...already poor." This project will only exacerbate our air quality and threaten the estimated 30,000 victims of existing lung disease in York County.

With your responsibilities an event of this magnitude may seem insignificant but please bear in mind that our children will live with this project for at least the next three decades. They need your help.

You are welcome to contact me or come visit us in York. My family and I would be pleased to have you stay with us. If you are unable to visit us I would be pleased to visit you with the President of the Medical Society, the Lung Association Director or anyone else you believe appropriate.

Kathleen, I wish you the best in your assignment and life. Thank you so much for your help in this matter. With my and my family's warmest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,



Francis Xavier McKee
2442 Wedgewood Way