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NRR-2944

May 18, 1979

Mr. Joseph Hendrie, Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

We live, work, own a business and a home, and are raising our two children within a 15-mile radius of Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. It is not an operating nuclear power plant and we do not want to see it licensed to operate for the following reasons:

1. Exposure to Low Level Radiation: We believe there will be an increase in cancers, leukemia, and genetic disorders from long-term exposure to low level radiation. Nuclear power has been in commercial production in the United States for approximately 25 years. Since the latency period for these types of cancers can be 15 to 40 years, we are just beginning to experience the effects of radiation upon human beings. Genetic disorders will surface in future generations.

2. Waste Disposal: In the nearly three decades of nuclear research, with millions of dollars spent, no safe method for disposal of radioactive waste has been found. There is no safe level of plutonium, one of the waste elements from nuclear power generation, which has a half life of 24,400 years and remains carcinogenic for at least one-half million years. We do not believe it is a moral or responsible act to leave to our descendants this unacceptable legacy.

3. Technology and Human Fallibility: As more information on recent 'accidents' and 'incidents' surfaces, it is obvious that nuclear technology cannot be judged to be fail-safe, and even if it were, we cannot invest total faith in the infallibility of human beings who must administer that technology or the social institutions of the future that must act as caretakers of this technology.

We believe that nuclear energy is neither clean, safe, or cheap. We would urge you to support conservation of our nonrenewable energy sources and the development of alternative energy technologies.

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