

50-273  
April 4, 1981

The Honorable Morris Udall,  
Chairman Sub. Committee of Energy and Environment,  
House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
1327 Longworth House Office Building,  
Washington, D. C. 20515



Dear Sir:

It is our understanding you have called a special hearing regarding the Public Input in N. R. C. proceedings, to be held April 9, 1981.

We feel there is an alarming lack of response to public concerns. There are at least eight, or possibly more, issues which should be resolved before the nuclear plant at Diablo Canyon is licensed; indeed, before ANY nuclear energy plant is permitted to go into operation.

This letter is a plea to prevent restrictions on the public from participating in any, and all, hearings having to do with the licensing of nuclear energy plants.

The operation of such plants is a matter of public concern. It is the people, far more than the operators, who pay the terrible price if, and when, such a plant fails to function safely.

It is our understanding that the hearing called for April 9 is for the purpose of discussing a proposal submitted to Congress by N. R. C. Chairman, Joseph Hendrie, which would limit legal intervention and public participation in any hearings on the licensing procedures of all nuclear plants. In our opinion this is a deadly move in the wrong direction.

When the Government forbids the public's participation in matters concerning their own well-being (except, perhaps, in highly sensitive national security matters) we are endangering our own democratic principles. We are also destroying confidence in our own government. ~~The Government must not do!~~

Having watched your dedicated service to the people of our beloved country, we feel confident that you will do everything within your power to protect the interests of all of us.

Sincerely, *Charles W. Hoffmann*  
(Mrs. Charles W. Hoffmann)

*Patricia Hoffmann*  
(Patricia Hoffmann)

855 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA.

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