

ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO
19TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

2332 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-3601

CONFERENCE SECRETARY

CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVER
GENEVA ARMS CONTROL TALKS

CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON
AFGHANISTAN—CO-CHAIRMAN

POW/MIA TASK FORCE
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 4, 1987

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS
VICE CHAIRMAN
ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR
AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INSULAR AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
VICE CHAIRMAN

NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS
VICE CHAIRMAN—PARKS

Lando W. Zech, Jr.
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

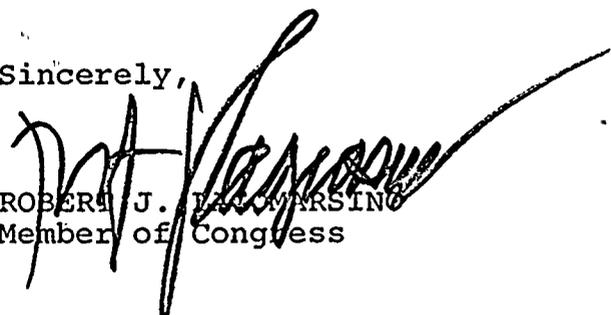
Dear Mr. Zech:

Please find enclosed a letter I received from my constituents, Mr. and Mrs. Weiss of Goleta, California, regarding their additional views on Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

Your review of the issues raised by Mr. and Mrs. Weiss is requested and appreciated. I am looking forward to your reply.

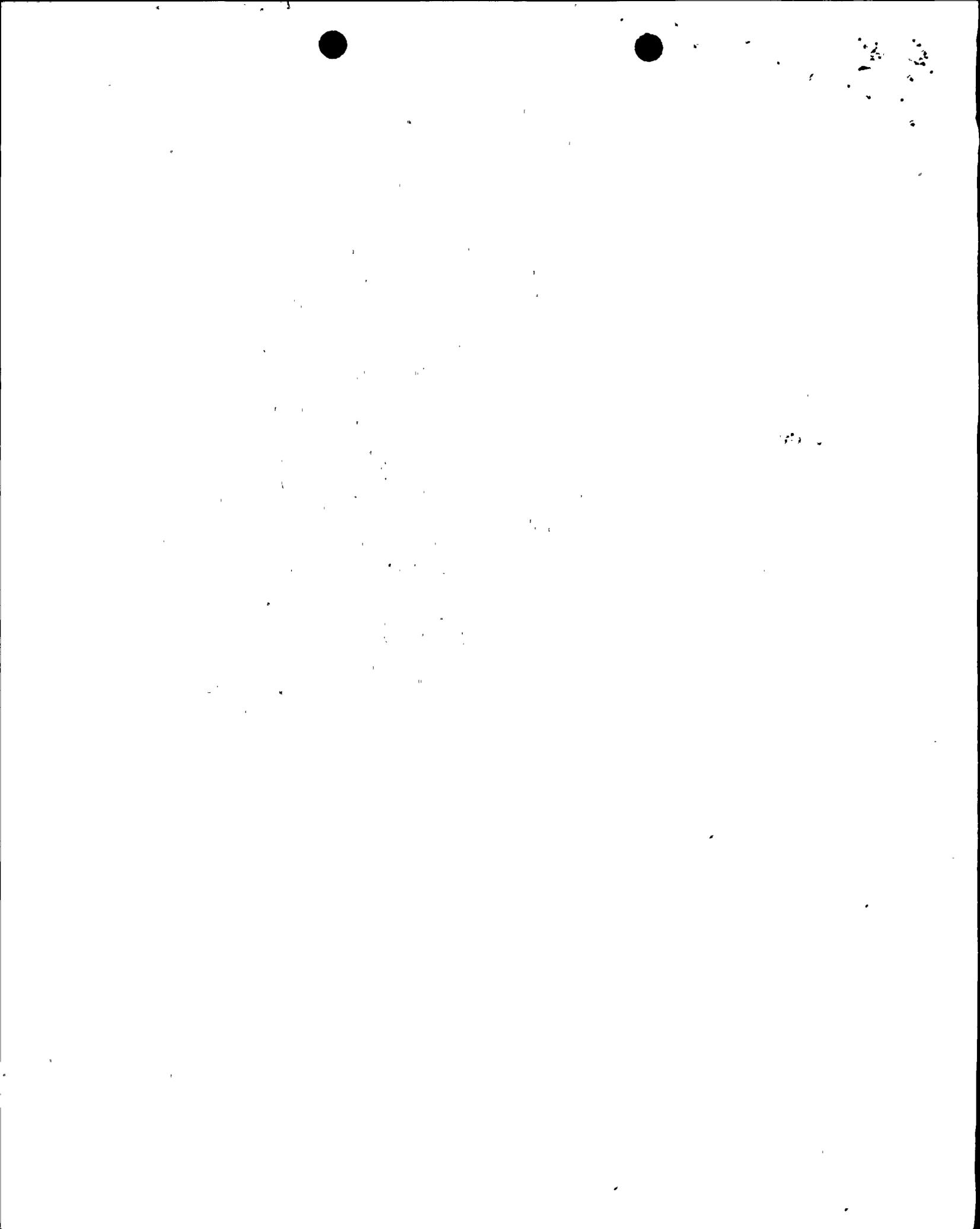
With best wishes,

Sincerely,


ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO
Member of Congress

RJL:sra
Enclosure

8712030255 871127
PDR ADDCK 05000275
H PDR



IN THE NRC LETTER WAS WHETHER THIS PUBLIC OPINION WAS CONSIDERED AS WELL AS SOLICITED. WHAT IS THE POINT OF SOLICITING PUBLIC OPINION IF IT IS NOT CONSIDERED? COULD I BE GIVEN A TALK OF SPEAKERS AND WRITERS FOR AND AGAINST?

SECONDLY I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU IF THE "U.S. COUNCIL FOR ENERGY AWARENESS" IS A GOVERNMENT AGENCY? IF THEY ARE WOULDN'T YOU AGREE THAT IN FAIRNESS TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THE ENCLOSED 'AD' IS BIASED AND NOT GIVING ADEQUATE INFORMATION BASED ON WHAT WE KNOW OF THE PROBLEMS RELATED TO LONG TERM SAFE STORAGE OF NUCLEAR FUEL?

WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO JUST FORGET ABOUT OPEC, OFFSHORE

007 1 1/2

AL & JACK WEISS
1053 VEREDA DEL CIERVO
GOLETA, CA 93117

9-26-87

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LABOMARSINO,

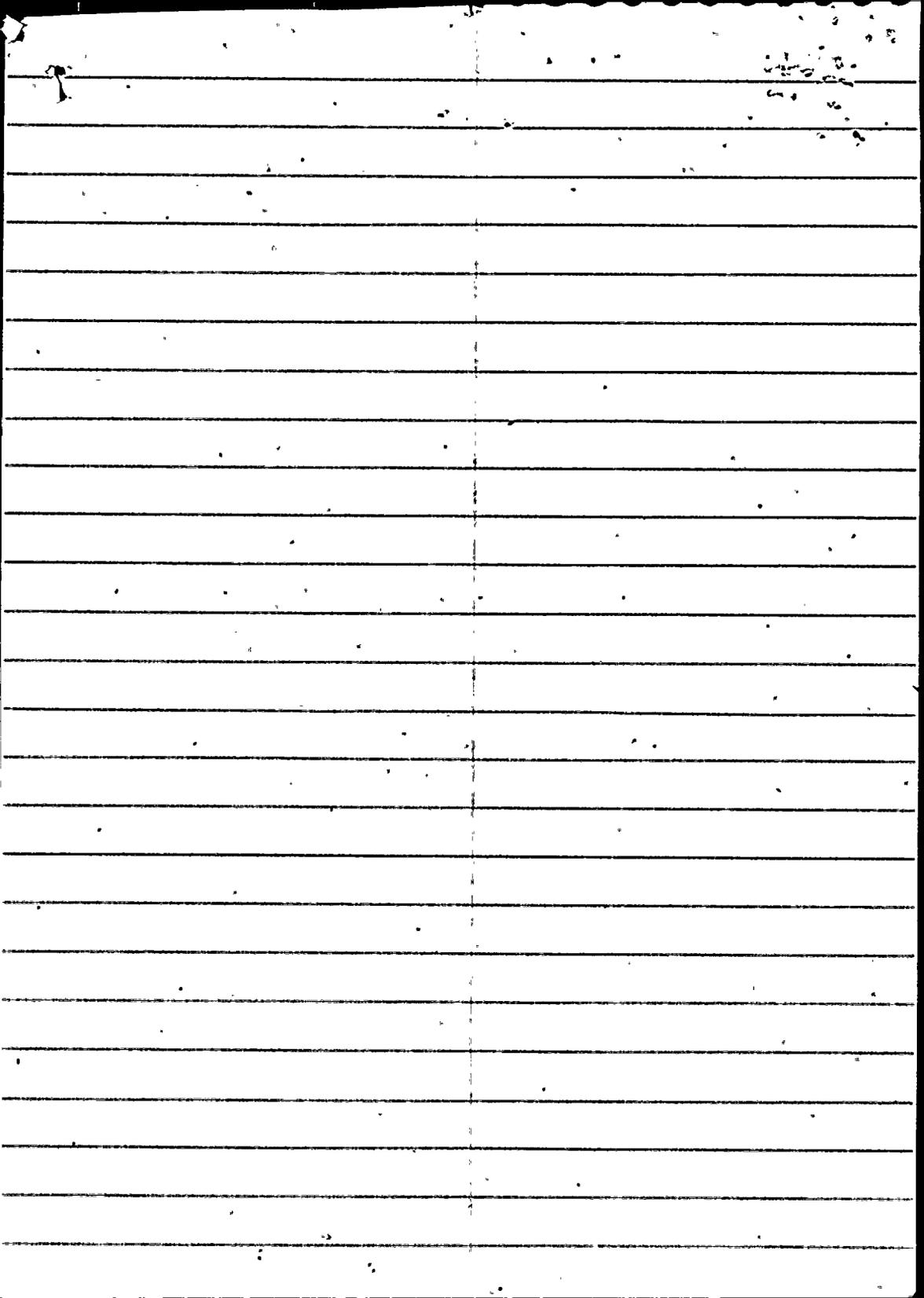
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TWO LETTERS TO US IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION OF WHETHER THE NRC WAS, OR WAS NOT REQUIRED TO CONSIDER PUBLIC OPINION IN THE STORAGE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL ON SITE AT DIABLO CANYON.

ACCORDING TO THE AUGUST 10TH LETTER FROM THE NRC TO YOU ADDRESSING THE MATTER OF SOLICITING PUBLIC OPINION, THE NRC SAID THEY DO HAVE A LONG STANDING POLICY OF SOLICITING PUBLIC OPINION AND THAT SEVENTY-ONE ORAL STATEMENTS WERE MADE AND WRITTEN VIEWS OF HUNDREDS OF OTHER PERSONS WERE ALSO RECEIVED. THIS WAS NOT A SURPRISE TO ME.

WHAT WAS NOT ADDRESSED

U.S. OIL POLLUTION, AND HYDRO-
CARBONS IN THE AIR WE
BREATHE AND BE ABLE TO
TURN ON THE LIGHT SWITCH
AND NOT WORRY ABOUT IT
BUT UNFORTUNATELY THERE IS
NO FREE, EASY ENERGY AND
THE PROBLEMS OF NUCLEAR
STORAGE WILL LAST THOUSANDS
OF YEARS.

SINCERELY,
Valerie Weiss



Diablo gets OK for pools

WALNUT CREEK — A federal board has decided to allow expansion of temporary nuclear waste storage pools at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, a ruling the Sierra Club will appeal, a Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman said Thursday.

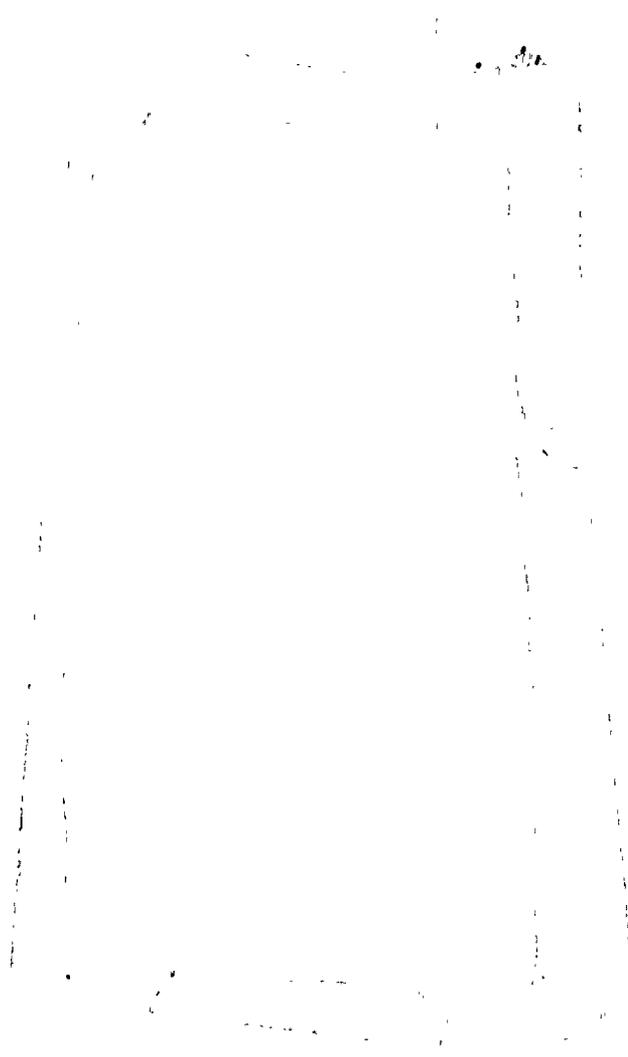
The decision means that after the NRC staff is satisfied remaining safety and technical concerns have been addressed, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. may more than quadruple the capacity of two "spent fuel pools" at Diablo's Unit 1 and Unit 2 reactors, NRC spokesman Greg Cook said.

Compiled from staff and Associated Press reports

SB-Newspress

9-18-87

1944



0

How nuclear energy can help defuse the next oil crisis



Nuclear-generated electricity, still the fastest-growing major energy source in America, may be our best defense against another oil crisis.

More and more energy experts are asking the same question: How long before another oil shock torpedoes our economy and threatens our national security?

Oil turmoil

Signs of the next energy crisis:

- U.S. oil imports soared last year, costing the country \$27 billion. This year, America's foreign-oil bill is expected to grow even bigger.
- Many oil analysts are saying that in three years or less, as much as 50% of all the oil used in the U.S. will have to be imported. That's a higher percentage than we have ever imported before, even during the oil crises of the 1970s.

- A whopping two-thirds of the world's oil lies under the sands of OPEC nations.

The need for nuclear

Nuclear electricity is a *domestically produced alternative to foreign oil*. Not just at the power plant, where nuclear energy is used instead of oil to generate electricity, but wherever Americans choose electricity (instead of oil) to heat their homes or run their factories.

The 1987 special report on U.S. energy security, ordered by the President and prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy, states that without electricity from nuclear energy, the United States "would be using more oil, paying more for each barrel of it, and feeling much less secure about its energy outlook."

The more we use our own nuclear electricity, the less we'll have

to rely on energy from unstable regions of the world.

Nuclear energy for a secure future

With over a hundred operating plants in the U.S., nuclear energy is now our second leading source of electricity. But in spite of all that we have accomplished, the threat of foreign oil dependence remains. Difficult choices still need to be made, but one fact is clear: the more we develop our own energy sources, the more we can control our own destiny.

For a free booklet on energy independence, write to the U.S. Council for Energy Awareness, P.O. Box 1537 (FQ22), Ridgely, MD 21681. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Information about energy
America can count on
U.S. COUNCIL FOR ENERGY AWARENESS



PLANET HUNTERS

Editor in Chief
Paul Hoffman

Art Director
Steven R. Black
Managing Editor
Roseann Henry
Senior Editors

Patricia Gadsby, Jeffrey Kluger,
Robert Kunzig, Andrew C. Revkin
Senior Copy Editor
Marc Zabludoff

Associate Art Director
Conrad Warre

Contributing Editors
Amy Mereson, Judith Stone,
Shawna Vogel, Rob Wechsler

Contributors
Jared Diamond, Tom Dworetzky,
Martin Gardner, James Gorman,
Stephen Jay Gould, Perri Klass,
Penny Ward Moser, Pat Shipman,
Michael Stueben, G. A. Taubes,
Lewis Thomas, John Tierney

Assistant Editors
Mark Kemp, Tom Waters
Editorial Assistant
Clarence V. Reynolds
Assistant to the Editor
Marcia Bell

Publisher
James D. McVey

Advertising Director
Kevin M. Landers
Marketing Research Director
James D. Malloy
Promotion Director
Marlene Rathgeb
Production Director
Staci Buhler
Advertising Coordinator
Lori A. McElroy

Publishing Consultant
Allen L. Hammond

FAMILY MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

CHAIRMAN	ROBERT E. RIORDAN
PRESIDENT	JEREMY GRAYZEL
SVP/GROUP PUBLISHER	GREGORY W. DUNN
VP/GENERAL COUNSEL	MICHAEL A. FEIRSTEIN
VP CIRCULATION	PATRICIA GARDINER
VP CONSUMER MARKETING	ROBERT T. CONKLN
VP PURCHASING	PETER HESSE
VP/ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER	RON VALERIO

ADVERTISING OFFICES

New York: 3 Park Ave., New York, NY 10016; (212) 340-9200;
Thomas S. Buttrick, William D. DeFesta, Todd Hammer,
Chicago: Equitable Building, 401 N. Michigan Ave., Suite
840, Chicago, IL 60611; (312) 644-0735; Ronald T. Keown,
Midwest Manager, Dallas: ELCO Magazines Inc., 3300 Oak
Lawn, Suite 414, Dallas TX 75219; (214) 521-6118; Edith
Lycke, Carol Orr, Detroit: 3250 W. Big Beaver Road, Suite
240, Troy, MI 48064; (313) 649-0580; Ted Case, Detroit
Manager, Los Angeles: James G. Elliott Co., 1533 Wishire
Bldg., Suite 202, Los Angeles, CA 90017; (213) 413-6734;
James G. Elliott, David Clark, JoAnn Brumfield, Miami:
Byrnn Richards & Assoc., 7600 Red Road, Suite 219, Miami,
FL 33143; (305) 662-5561; Bryce Byrnn Jr., John Richards,
San Francisco: James G. Elliott Co.; (415) 550-7878. Mail
Order: Media People Inc., 2 W. 45 St., New York, NY 10036;
(212) 719-5950.

Discover (ISSN 0274-7529) is published monthly by Family
Media Inc., Michael J. Brennock, Chairman, 3 Park Ave., New
York, NY 10016, under arrangement with Discover Publica-
tions Inc. Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at
additional mailing offices. Subscriptions: In the U.S., \$27.00
for one year; in Canada, \$30.00 for one year; other foreign
countries, \$31.95 for one year. Back issues available.
Copyright © 1987 by Discover Publications Inc. All
rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without
permission is prohibited. Postmaster: Please address all
subscription correspondence, including change of address, to
Discover, P.O. Box 359105, Palm Coast, FL 32035-9105, or
call toll-free (800) 423-1780, in Florida (800) 858-0095.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Ever since Ian Shelton, a 29-year-old grad school dropout from Canada, discovered the supernova of 1987 while listening to Pink Floyd on his Walkman, the expiring star has been front-page news. And not without reason: the last time someone witnessed the explosive death of a nearby star was in 1604. But though eclipsed by news of the supernova, the rest of astronomy nonetheless marches on, and other discoveries have actually been more impressive, if less widely known. After all, it was a fluke that Shelton was the first to spy the supernova; if he hadn't, someone else soon would have.



Editor in Chief Hoffman

It is no fluke, however, that three stargazers—also Canadians but with traditional academic credentials—are galvanizing the hunt for other planets; they put in six years of painstaking observations. We asked Richard Wolkomir, an award-winning science writer in Vermont, to see what the fuss was all about. After canvassing astronomers at nine observatories, he produced our cover story, "Alien Worlds: The Search Heats Up," which begins on page 66.

The existence of planets beyond our solar system is firmly entrenched in popular culture, particularly in science fiction. But in science fact nobody knows for sure that the universe includes any planets other than the familiar nine.

That's why planetary scientists got excited when the Canadian astronomers announced this summer the firmest evidence yet for alien worlds. From a tele-

scope atop Mauna Kea, in Hawaii, they tracked a slight wobble in the motion of seven stars. The most plausible explanation is that the stars are being pulled by the gravity of small, unseen companions—in other words, planets. "If it's true," Carl Sagan told Wolkomir, "it's extremely significant. Looking for planetary systems is a way of determining how special a case the solar system really is."

If the solar system isn't unique, perhaps the existence of intelligent life on Earth isn't either. That's what NASA wants to find out, with an extensive search of the 1,000 nearest stars. Contributing editor Shawna Vogel reports on the space agency's plans in "E.T., Phone NASA," on page 78.

Even if E.T. is there, the odds of contact, Vogel found, are not high, for the obstacles may be more than technological. "It takes four years for light to travel to Proxima Centauri [the nearest star], and four years back," says David Black of NASA. "If the aliens have a Congress like ours, then for all we know it will take them five more years just to get the money for a response."

Hyperbole perhaps, but on this orb, at least, planet hunters are hurting for money. When the Canadian astronomers announced their evidence for other worlds, one of them also announced his resignation, in protest against Canada's meager funding of planetary science. Unfortunately, the situation in this country is not much better. When it comes to basic research, what could be more fundamental than probing our place in the universe? I for one am willing to kick in a few pennies.

Paul Hoffman

EDITOR IN CHIEF