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December 12, 1978

Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

The Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a permit to construct and operate a low-level waste reduction system at the Nine Mile I Nuclear Station in Oswego, New York.

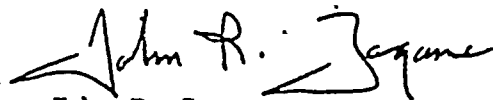
Since that time the Oswego County Legislature has gone on record by resolution requesting full NRC hearings on this proposed system. I wish to add my strong support to this request.

Several factors lead me to my position:

1. The hearing process will provide additional information on the safety of this system by allowing interested parties access to proprietary information within guidelines designed to protect against disclosure of this information to competitors of the Radwaste system developer.
2. My own study and observations have led me to conclude that this system should be tested on a full-scale operational basis in a less populated area before it is installed in Oswego County. This point would be developed further during full NRC hearings.
3. The decision-making process for such new ancillary nuclear technologies should be as protective of the public as possible. To assure this protection, it is advisable to provide a mechanism for intelligent public input at the local level rather than relegating the decision to Washington alone.

I urge you to take these considerations into account in your decision on the question of NRC hearings. The people of Oswego County deserve the maximum opportunity afforded under federal law to take an active part in the decision-making process, based on adequate disclosure and discussion of the many issues surrounding this proposed plant.

Sincerely,


John R. Zagame

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