



State of Delaware
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Michael N. Castle
Lieutenant Governor

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Dover, Delaware 19901
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June 1, 1983

Mr. Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Palladino:

I am writing this letter on behalf of many concerned citizens in the State of Delaware regarding the operation of the Salem Nuclear Generating Station in Lower Alloways, New Jersey. First, let me start off by stating that I am not opposed to the generation of nuclear power, nor do I support the shut down of nuclear power generating stations nationwide. Nor is it my purpose to recite the dangerous incidents which have occurred at Salem over the past several months. As Lieutenant Governor, I am, however, greatly distressed over your decision to permit the Salem plant to operate at full power given that plant's management record. Due to gross mismanagement, the Salem plant presented, over the past several months, a serious health and safety risk to the citizens of Delaware. Under no circumstances, do I believe that the Salem plant should be operating today when such a short period of time was allocated to evaluate whether the plant could return to normal operations after experiencing "the most serious nuclear power incident since Three Mile Island." However, if you will not reconsider your decision to permit the plant to reopen, I hope that, at a minimum, you will give closer scrutiny to the operations of the Salem plant in the future. While we certainly cannot undo the errant deeds of Salem's management, we can take swift, responsible actions today to prevent future problems from occurring.

Nuclear power does indeed provide a valuable energy resource for America. It is an industry that generally speaking has a good safety record, so far. Unfortunately, the operation of the Salem nuclear plant badly tarnishes this record. The citizens of Delaware are fearful for their lives and justifiably so. I urge you, the members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to act responsibly for the future of my State's citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael N. Castle".

Michael N. Castle
Lieutenant Governor

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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR