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1-070687E089 03/30/79 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP WSHA
4086493555 MGM TDBN MONTEREY CA 314 03-30 0710P EST

THE HONORABLE JOSEPH HENDRIC
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D.C. 20555

IN LIGHT OF THE TRAGIC OCCURRENCE AT THE THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THAT THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION CONDUCT A FULL AND IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THAT SERIOUS ACCIDENT AND PROVIDE ME WITH THE RESULTS OF THAT INQUIRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I AM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS MATTER BECAUSE THE LICENSING BOARD OF THE NRC IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION THIS MAY ON THE OPERATION OF THE DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR PLANT LOCATED NEAR MY DISTRICT IN SAN LUIS OBISTO CALIFORNIA.

BECAUSE OF THE MANY PUBLIC CONCERNS OVER THE ACCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL STEPS NECESSARY BE TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION TO ENSURE THAT NONE OF THE STRUCTURAL OR OPERATIONAL DEFICIENCIES PRESENT AT THE PENNSYLVANIA PLANT ARE PRESENT IN THE OPERATION OF ANY OTHER OLD OR NEW NUCLEAR POWER FACILITY.

I AM REQUESTING, THEREFORE, THAT IN ADDITION TO THE INVESTIGATION, THE COMMISSION CAREFULLY ANALYZE THE COMPARATIVE STRUCTURAL AND OPERATIONAL DESIGNS OF BOTH THE DIABLO CANYON AND THREE MILE ISLAND PLANTS. IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THERE ARE ANY SIGNIFICANT SIMILARITIES IN THE DESIGNS AND/OR OPERATIONAL FEATURES OF THE PLANTS THAT WOULD IN ANYWAY RELATE TO THE POTENTIAL FOR A SIMILAR ACCIDENT, I WOULD ASK THAT THE COMMISSION IMMEDIATELY DEFER ANY FINAL DECISION ON THE LICENSING OF THE DIABLO PLANT UNTIL THESE PROBLEMS ARE RESOLVED. AS YOU KNOW, THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR POWER IN THIS COUNTRY LARGELY REST ON THE CONFIDENCE OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND THE SAFETY AND RELIABILITY OF SUCH POWERS. OBVIOUSLY, UNTIL ALL OF THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PENNSYLVANIA PLANT ACCIDENT ARE RESOLVED, IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL, BOTH FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS THE CREDIABILITY OF THE COMMISSION, THAT EVERY PRECAUTION IS TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT SIMILAR TRAGEDIES WILL NOT OCCUR AGAIN. SINCERELY

LEON E. PANETTA
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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19:10 EST