

BOB WHITTAKER
5th District, Kansas

60-320



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 4, 1979

Hdqtrs. P&H

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

As you know, many Americans are greatly concerned about the safety of nuclear energy in light of the current troubles at the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor in Pennsylvania. I am writing to ask that your investigation of the Three Mile Island accident include a thorough evaluation of the chances for a similar accident at other plants and means to prevent such an occurrence.

It will, I know, take some time to gather all of the facts and determine exactly what caused the Three Mile Island accident. However, I wish to strongly encourage the most expeditious handling possible of this investigation. Preliminary information leads one to believe that the Three Mile Island accident was at least partially a result of human error in overriding a built-in safety system. I would hope that your analysis would include recommendations for the necessary equipment and procedures to minimize the possibility of human error.

Any such recommendations should carefully be studied to see if they are applicable to other nuclear power plants, whether they be one of the five plants of the same design or any other. Again, I would stress that your investigation and report must be completed as expeditiously as possible to meet the twin goals of assuring the public that our nuclear power plants are as safe as possible and of meeting our country's energy needs without excessive dependence upon foreign sources.

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Sincerely,

Bob Whittaker

Mr. Joseph Hendrie
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

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