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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
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Honorable Jimmy Carter
President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

H-50-320

Dear Mr. President:

Yesterday during a discussion on the House floor about the future of our nuclear energy policies in light of the recent accident and hazardous situation in Pennsylvania, I made the point that I felt quite strongly that we should move ahead with and expand on a position you advocated some time ago, but which has not yet been implemented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. That is, we should maintain permanent on-site federal inspectors at nuclear power plants both in operation and under construction throughout the United States.

According to the NRC, there are presently 70 nuclear plants licensed to operate in the United States and another 92 have permits for construction. However, recent press reports indicate that only 20 NRC inspectors are assigned to specific plant sites, 14 at operating plants and 6 at construction sites. In light of the potential hazard that exists if these plants are not safely constructed, operated and maintained, it seems quite clear that the very least we should do is to provide on-site inspections as we do at meat packing plants.

As I understand it, the NRC presently has 715 staff members working in inspection and enforcement. It should not be an undue burden to assign 162 of those -- 142 more than at present -- to work as on-site permanent inspectors instead of working at one of the five regional NRC offices or here in Washington. Safety of these facilities should be the primary concern of the NRC, and the most effective place to assure that safety is not behind desks, but on-site.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to move promptly to direct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to reassign inspectors to plants presently operating or under construction.

With best regards,

Dan Glickman

DG/sf

cc: Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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