HUGH M. COFFMAN

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COMMITTEES.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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

May 7, 19.79

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

Dear Chairman Hendrie:

It is my understanding from press accounts and from the professional staff at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that it is your intention to permit the dumping of substantial quantities of water containing low-level radioactive aste into the Susquehanna River sometime in the near future. I wish to apprise you of my strong objection to the granting of such permission.

Even though the radioactive waste water will be processed to remove residue and resins, I must object to the fact that the NRC apparently considered no option other than dumping the remaining low-level waste into the river. You certainly are aware that my constituents and other area residents have borne the brunt of the Three Mile Island nuclear crisis and currently must live with conflicting stories about the radiation doses to which they were exposed and the possibility of long-term health hazards.

For them now to be told that they will be exposed to even more radiation (even low-level waste), is completely unacceptable. There must be other options available to deal with the problem of the radioactive waste water, and I respectfully call on you to explore them and choose an alternative. No economic argument can be advanced which justifies further health hazards. Some other means of handling this problem must be found.

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Robert S. Walker

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