



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL  
MADISON, 53702

LEE SHERMAN DREYFUS

May 24, 1979

Telephone Number  
(608) 266-1212

Joseph Hendri, Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendri:

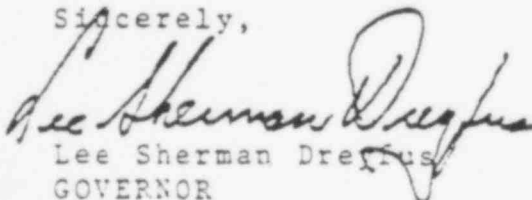
It seems clear to me that one of the primary lessons to be learned from the recent Three-Mile Island incident is that the decision to shut down, or not to shut down, a nuclear power plant in a situation involving public safety must be within the power of a single qualified individual whose only interest is the public interest. Further, my judgment is that that should be a federal officer and preferably one who is assigned on-site full time.

Without denegrating the civic spirit of the various corporations which own and operate such plants, it is unrealistic to expect their employees to make such decisions entirely without reference to the corporations' interests in public relations and profit. I am persuaded, as is President Carter, that the nation will have to continue to rely on nuclear generation of energy for the immediate future. While the presence of a fully-authoritative federal decision-maker on-site full time will not address all of the concerns of those who wish to discontinue reliance on nuclear energy immediately, it will provide the general public with some reassurance that such a critical decision is made by one who is both technically qualified and totally detached from any private interests.

I would very much appreciate receiving a call from you at your earliest convenience so that we can explore this proposition more thoroughly and, as appropriate, designate specific staff individuals to work out the arrangements necessary to bring this into being.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

  
Lee Sherman Dreyfus  
GOVERNOR

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cc: Secretary Donald E. Percv

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