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SUITE 2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
August 3, 1979

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Dr. Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Dr. Hendrie:

The House will soon be considering the NRC Authorization Bill for FY 1980 and I expect that the state emergency plan amendments that surfaced in the Senate will be offered in the House. I would, therefore, appreciate your perspective and the Commission's position on the merits of, and the need for, this type of amendment.

I recognize the need for emergency preparedness, but I am unconvinced that the amendments in question are necessary. In particular, it is my understanding that the NRC is presently pursuing programs similar to those proposed in the amendments, that is, approval of emergency response plans with all of the concerned states. I am especially disturbed about the decidedly anti-nuclear tone of the shut-down provision, which is exacerbated by the omission of authority to grant waivers when there are extenuating circumstances.

I think it is time to remind the Members of the House that licensed nuclear powerplants are safe to operate and that the absence of a response plan, however desirable, does not detract from the safety of their operation.

It would be helpful if you could respond by August 27, 1979. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,


MIKE McCORMACK
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Energy Research and Production

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