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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555  
October 25, 1979

Ms. Linda K. Heckert  
Box 421, Teila Drive  
R. D. #1  
Dallastown, PA 17313

Dear Ms. Heckert:

This is in reply to your letter of April 2, 1979, to Chairman Hendrie, opposing any shutdown of nuclear power plants, especially Three Mile Island. I am sorry for the delay in answering your letter, but we have been very busy with the aftermath of the Three Mile Island accident.

Of course, Three Mile Island Unit 2, where the accident occurred, is not operable and won't be for a long time to come. With regard to Three Mile Island Unit 1, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in its Order of July 2, 1979, directed that it shall remain shut down until further order of the Commission itself after a public hearing. The Commission stated that, in view of the variety of issues raised by the accident at Unit 2, it lacks the requisite reasonable assurance that Unit 1 can be operated without endangering the public health and safety.

Several other plants of design similar to Three Mile Island were shut down temporarily until modifications could be made. At present, no plants other than Three Mile Island that had operated before the Three Mile Island accident are shut down because of that accident. Also, construction of new plants that had begun before the accident has not been stopped because of the accident.

On September 6, 1979, the Commission requested that it be consulted prior to the issuance of all new licenses so that Commissioner views and the status of the report of the President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island can be taken into account.

Every effort is being made to ensure the continued protection of the public health and safety at all nuclear plants that are currently operating or that may begin operation in the future.

Sincerely,

*Harold R. Denton*

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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