

STEWART B. MCKINNEY  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
NEW HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
COMMITTEES  
BANKING, FINANCE AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5541

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

DISTRICT OFFICES  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
LAFAYETTE BOULEVARD  
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT 0660  
TELEPHONE: (203) 579-5870  
500 SUMMER STREET  
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06901  
TELEPHONE: (203) 357-8277  
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT  
TELEPHONE: (203) 866-6469

August 7, 1979

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

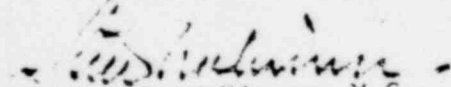
Dear Mr. Chairman:

The recent accident at Three Mile Island has highlighted the need for higher safety standards at our nuclear power plants. In my opinion, plant safety would best be enhanced through the development of standardized plant safety requirements. Of course, such requirements should only be installed after improved safety standards are developed. Therefore, I would appreciate receiving your answers to the following questions:

1. Is legislation required in order for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to develop and standardize minimum safety requirements for nuclear plants? Can and should the NRC take this action on its own?
2. Could the recommendations of the President's commission on Three Mile Island (The Kemeny Commission) be used in the development of standardized safety requirements? Are there other sources from which such safety requirements could be drawn?
3. Could minimum standardized safety requirements be applied to all operating nuclear plants? What difficulties would be involved in such a process?
4. Do you believe it would be desirable to standardize upgraded safety requirements?

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I hope to hear from you as soon as possible, ideally no later than August 25.

Sincerely,

  
Stewart B. McKinney, M.C.

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