



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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June 13, 1979

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you are aware, the Commission is heavily involved in assessing the implications of the recent event that occurred at the Three Mile Island (TMI) nuclear power plant. We have a sizable number of our staff diverted to TMI for both our own investigation and in support of Presidential and Congressional Committee efforts.

We have determined that our investigation must include a self-examination if it is to be fully objective in its findings. To assure such objectivity, we plan to contract with an independent, highly-qualified firm to lead our investigative effort. We believe it will enhance the credibility of the investigation. We will provide the firm whatever staff assistance it may require, but we will expect the firm to exercise its independent evaluation in reaching its findings and conclusions. We estimate the contract to cost about \$450,000 and encompass a period of about six months. We plan to finance the effort with prior-year funds, which we have recently recovered as the result of contract closeouts.

We request your approval of this action.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman

cc: Sen. Mark O. Hatfield

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