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The Honorable Bill Bradley  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Bradley:

I am pleased to reply to your letter of April 16 which forwarded an inquiry from Mr. Kenneth E. Beckwith of Lakewood, New Jersey. Mr. Beckwith questions the right of a utility to pass on the costs of accidents--such as the accident at Three Mile Island--to rate-paying consumers. I hope the information which follows will assist you in responding to him.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is concerned with four aspects of electric power generation by nuclear plants: public health and safety, environmental quality, national security, and adherence to the provisions of antitrust laws. NRC has no direct role in the setting of rates for the transmission or sale of electricity so generated.

Rate-setting is a primary function of State public service commissions or similar State-level bodies. Certain Federal oversight and coordinating functions, once the responsibility of the now-defunct Federal Power Commission, are handled by the Department of Energy's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Should Mr. Beckwith wish to explore these matters in greater detail, we suggest he write directly to the New Jersey Public Service Commission at Trenton or to the FERC, Washington, D. C. 20545.

If there is any further information we may be able to provide, please call on us.

Sincerely,

(Name)  
Title  
Address  
City, State, Zip

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