

Equinox
March 14, 1979

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Denton —

ultimate in stupidity had
been reached in Washington, but
when I read the enclosed
article in this morning's paper
I realized I had misjudged
Congress, all the Commissions,
and other "experts".

I would be greatly interested
in knowing when earthquakes
had occurred in these areas
and just how severe they were.
I read the U.S. News and World
Report religiously - I shall be
looking forward to its remarks
on this latest piece of

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advice from Washington.
I hope the long-suffering
taxpayer will call a halt
and bring these nebulous
"thinkers" to some sort of
sensible reality before it is
too late.

A little horse sense would
work wonders.

Mrs. C. J. Smith

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U.S. closes 5 atomic power plants

March 14th 1979

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission yesterday ordered five atomic power plants shut down because their cooling systems may be unable to withstand earthquakes.

The commission said an improper computer formula used to design the plants more than seven years ago led to inadequate

support for cooling system pipes. If the pipes failed, it said, two main lines of defense against major accidents could be breached.

The reactors are Beaver Valley at Shippingport, Pa.; Surry No. 1 and No. 2 at Gravel Neck, Va.; James Fitzpatrick at Scriba, N.Y.; and Maine-Yankee at Wiscas-

set, Maine. Together, they can produce 4.1 million watts of electricity.

Harold Denton, director of reactor regulation for the commission, said the plants must be shut down within 48 hours and stay out of service until their safety has been assured. The action threatened to force the country to rely more on oil at a time when oil supplies are scarce.