

Updike

1450 Valencia Rd.
Schenectady, N.Y. 12309
April 6, 1972

Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

I take the liberty of addressing this brief comment to you instead of to the Licensing Board because of the nature of the project to which I refer, and because the final awesome decision on the matter of which I write will be yours.

For an appreciable time now, I have followed the proceedings dealing with the application of Offshore Power Systems, Inc. to build eight nuclear power off the Atlantic coast. Item 70-60 in Volume 3, Number 13 of the NRC NEWS RELEASES mentioned that an April 4 hearing on application for a license to build these plants was to be held before the Licensing Board. I presume that a final decision may be reached soon.

And I presume too, that numberless "studies" by the applicant's own engineers and scientists and hired consultants will prove without any possible doubt that the proposed plants could not possibly come unmoored after installation.

I am long retired; have no business connections and could not possibly even attempt to refute applicants' absolute confidence in their proposal.

However, when the safety and lives of uncounted numbers of citizens are at stake, I am a supreme pessimist.

I write this letter only to state the following: these plants would be at the mercy of the elements. I think that it is unconscious ~~unconscious~~ ~~assumptions~~ of mere man to even attempt to evaluate the optimum of forces which hurricanes, tidal waves, typhoons or any other of the other cataclysmic forces which the oceans of the world can and have generated throughout the ages, and still choose to put man's puny, but in this case, potentially deadly, machines at the mercy of these forces. For, if a storm of unprecedented ferocity ever to wash ashore or all eight of these eight huge, vulnerable nuclear plants, the loss of human life and of property might be beyond comprehension, a tragedy which would forever haunt the decision-makers.

Respectfully yours,

J.L. Tooher

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