



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

June 1, 1979

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Alan Ertel
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ertel:

In my letter to you of March 15, 1979 I promised to provide you with information concerning the impact of the shutdown of 16 nuclear power reactors on the installed reserve margins of potentially affected utilities. The 16 plants were identified in a press release of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) as those that UCS felt should be shutdown.

The impact on reliability council installed reserve margins of losing the output on the 16 nuclear power plants is indicated in the attachments to this letter prepared by the NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation; these data are based upon the April 1, 1979 submission of the country's electric reliability councils to DOE. The first attachment lists 12 stations (16 reactors), their component units, design electrical ratings by unit, and the reliability council within which the station is located. The second attachment is a map indicating the geographic boundaries of the nation's electric reliability council areas.

Attachment three is a table indicating the National Electric Reliability Council's April 1st estimate of dependable capacity, peak demand, and the resulting installed reserve margin. Information in the table applies to the summer and winter peaks of 1979 and 1979/80 respectively. The three columns on the right indicate the impact on dependable capability and installed reserve margin of removing the 16 plants from operation. Of course, scheduled maintenance and unforeseen outages will lower the operating (i.e., actual) reserves.

Attachment three indicates that for both the summer and winter peaks--for the years indicated--a decrease in the installed reserve margin would occur nationally as a result of closing the 16 stations. The decrease would be more severe for both winter and summer peaks in the following council areas: MAAC, NPCC (New England), TVA, and VACAR. It is important to note that these figures do not take conservation into account. Conservation should be considered in any effort to assess the real impacts of closing down particular plants. The major impact would be in VACAR where the installed reserve margin would fall to 4% for the summer peak.

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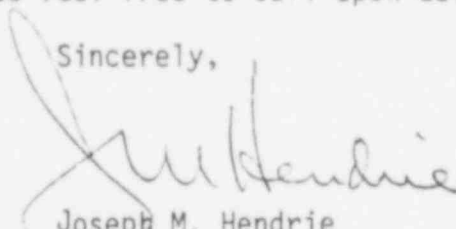
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The Honorable Alan Ertel

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I hope that this information is responsive to your request. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to call upon us.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman

Enclosures:
As stated

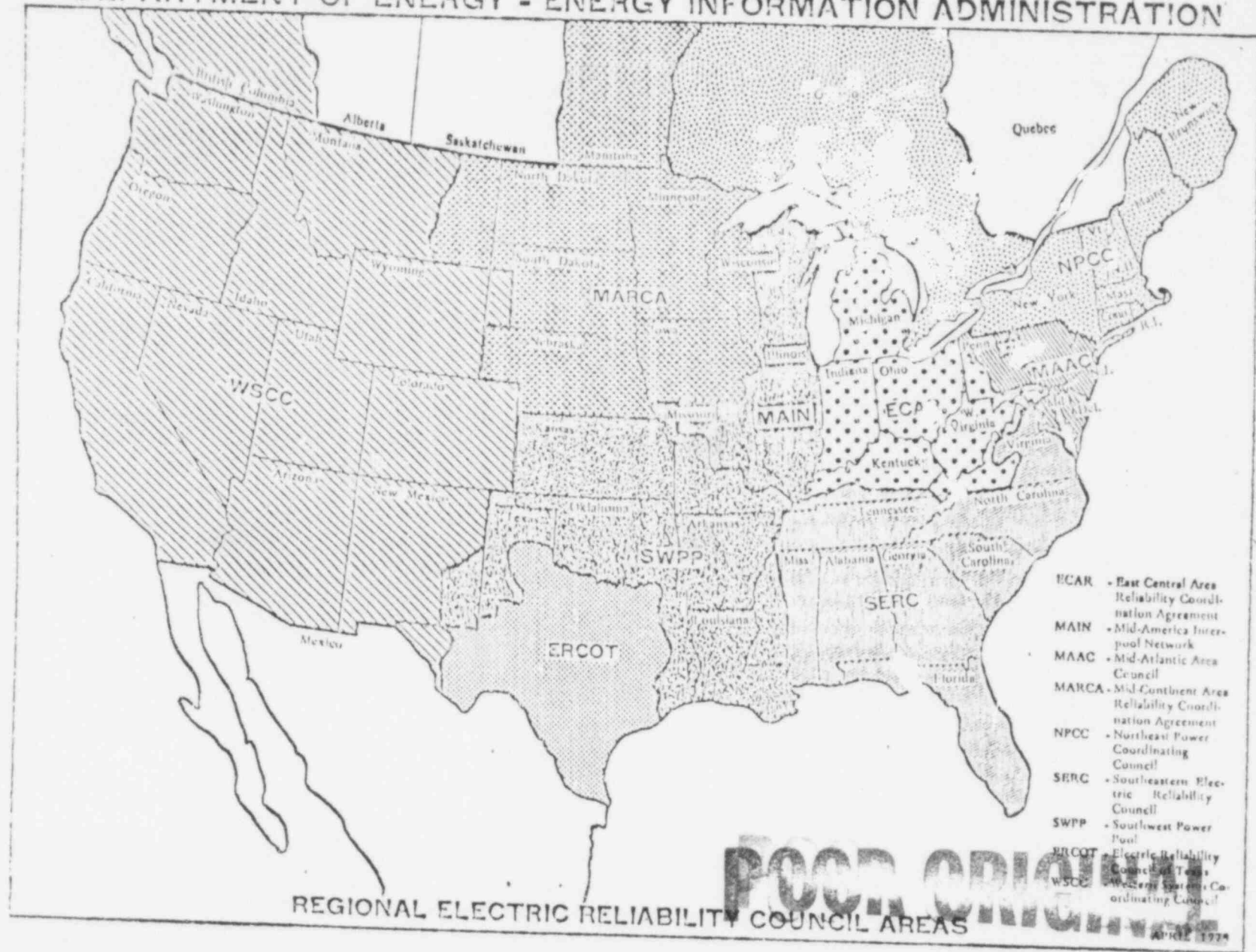
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DESIGN ELECTRICAL RATINGS OF
SIXTEEN NUCLEAR GENERATING STATIONS

<u>Station</u>	<u>MWe Net</u>	<u>Reliability Council</u>
Brunswick Units 1 & 2	821/821	SERC (VACAR)
Haddam Neck	575	NPCC (NE)
Oconee Units 1, 2 & 3	887/887/887	SERC (VACAR)
Pilgrim Unit 1	655	NPCC (NE)
Rancho Seco	918	WSCC
H. B. Robinson Unit 2	700	SERC (VACAR)
Three Mile Island Units 1 & 2	819/906	MAAC
Trojan	1130	WSCC
D. C. Cook Unit 1	1054	ECAR
Browns Ferry Unit 3	1065	SERC (TVA)
Yankee Rowe	175	NPCC (NE)
Ginna	490	NPCC (NY)

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY - ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION



- ECAR - East Central Area Reliability Coordination Agreement
- MAIN - Mid-America Interpool Network
- MAAC - Mid-Atlantic Area Council
- MARCA - Mid-Continent Area Reliability Coordination Agreement
- NPCC - Northeast Power Coordinating Council
- SERC - Southeastern Electric Reliability Council
- SWPP - Southwest Power Pool
- ERCOT - Electric Reliability Council of Texas
- WSCC - Western System Coordinating Council

REGIONAL ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL AREAS

POOL ORIGINAL
MAY 1978

PROJECTED AND REVISED CAPABILITY AND DEMAND
FROM RELIABILITY COUNCIL REPORTS

DATED APRIL 1, 1979

COUNCIL	DEPENDABLE** CAPABILITY MW	PEAK*** DEMAND MW	INSTALLED RESERVE MARGIN		REVISED DEPENDABLE**** CAPABILITY MW	REVISED INSTALLED RESERVE MARGIN MW
			MW	%		
			SUMMER 1979			
ECAR	82,423	62,605	19,818	31.65	89,517	17,912
MAAC*	44,141	33,446	10,695	31.92	43,322	9,875
MAIN	44,341	36,271	8,070	22.49	44,341	8,070
MARCA	24,183	19,470	4,713	24.20	24,183	4,713
NPCC						
NEW ENGLAND	21,294	15,569	5,725	36.77	19,909	3,530
NEW YORK	30,410	21,430	8,980	41.90	29,099	7,669
TOTAL NPCC	51,704	36,999	14,705	39.74	49,008	11,198
SERC						
FLORIDA	21,754	17,261	4,493	26.02	21,754	4,493
SOUTHERN	26,840	21,310	5,530	25.95	26,840	5,530
TVA	25,220	20,356	4,864	23.89	24,155	3,799
VACAR*	35,215	28,282	6,933	24.51	29,425	1,143
TOTAL SERC	109,029	87,209	21,820	25.02	102,173	14,964
SWPP	49,538	41,094	8,444	20.54	49,538	8,444
WSCC	103,149	79,942	23,207	29.02	101,101	21,159
FRCOT	40,261	30,443	9,821	32.26	40,246	9,821

WINTER 1979-80

APR 27 1979

ECAR	85,437	63,091	22,346	35.41	113,531	20,440	32.39
MAAC*	47,481	29,686	17,795	59.95	46,662	16,976	57.18
MAIN	45,623	29,780	15,843	53.70	45,623	15,843	53.20
MARCA	25,409	17,821	7,588	42.57	25,409	7,588	42.57
NPCC							
NEW ENGLAND	21,979	16,595	5,384	32.44	19,784	3,189	19.21
NEW YORK	30,731	19,930	10,801	54.19	29,420	9,480	47.61
						40	
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<u>TOTAL NPCC</u>	52,710	36,525	16,185	44.31	49,204	12,679	34.71
SERC							
FLORIDA	22,830	19,181	3,649	19.02	22,830	3,649	19.02
SOUTHERN	26,620	18,939	7,681	40.55	26,620	7,681	40.55
TVA	30,127	23,293	6,834	29.33	29,062	5,769	24.76
VACAR	37,292	28,123	9,169	32.60	31,501	3,378	12.01
<u>TOTAL NPCC</u>	116,869	89,536	27,333	30.52	110,013	20,477	22.87
SWPP	47,744	29,349	18,395	62.67	47,744	18,395	62.67
WSCC	106,979	79,158	28,539	36.05	104,931	25,773	32.55
ERCOT	38,842	22,029	16,813	76.32	38,842	22,029	76.32

*Surry Unit II (788 MW - VACAR), and Three Mile Island Unit #2 (906MW - MAAC) have been subtracted from dependable capability.

**Includes purchase and sales of capacity.

***Peak demand includes interruptible load.

****Revised dependable capacity includes purchase and sales of capacity; however, capacities are reduced for Surry 1 (788 MW-VACAR), Beaver Valley (852 MW-ECAR), Fitzpatrick (821 MW-NPCC) and Main Yankee (790 MW-NPCC).

ALLEN E. ERTEL
17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
PENNSYLVANIA

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

February 9, 1979

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Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Hendrie:

We are taking this opportunity to bring to your attention a matter of serious concern to us and to our constituents.

The controversy over nuclear power has escalated in recent weeks in the wake of the Commission's repudiation of major parts of the Rasmussen study. As we understand it, the Commission had relied on the accident probabilities contained in the study to support the continued operation of several power plants whose safety systems are possibly questionable.

Even though the study is no longer considered entirely authoritative by the Commission, the NRC has yet to indicate what the next step will be. Both the Congress and the public have received information from the Union of Concerned Scientists, who advocate not only the shutdown of the 16 plants in question, but also a moratorium on the licensing and construction of nuclear power plants.

Now, weeks after the release of the Lewis study, which raised the doubts about the Rasmussen report and opened a Pandora's box of questions about NRC's safety policies and procedures in general, the Commission has not offered any assessment of the risks of continued operation of these particular power plants, nor has it offered any specific indication of how it plans to proceed without the Rasmussen report.

There are several crucial questions which must be addressed now:

--What does the NRC plan with respect to the continued operation of the 16 power plants in question?

--What risks are we encountering that we did not know about prior to the Lewis study?

--What consequences would a shutdown of any of these plants have on the supply of energy to the affected area?

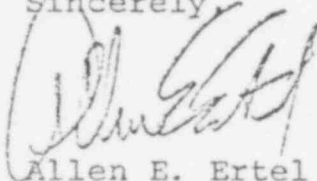
CHAIRMAN JOSEPH M. HENDRIE
February 9, 1979
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--How will the NRC deal with the types of safety issues raised by the Lewis study and what, if any, improved safety precautions are needed in existing power plants?

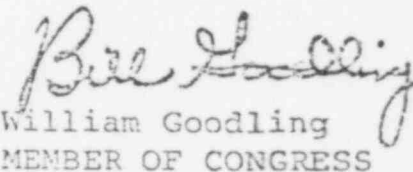
Continued delay in confronting these matters can only further damage the cause of nuclear power development in the United States, at an all too critical point in the nation's energy future. The uncertainties of this future, characterized now by the crisis in Iran and the dwindling of our conventional fuel supplies, necessitate that these issues be resolved.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Allen E. Ertel
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



William Goodling
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

AEE/nb

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