

CA



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

RD

FEB 7 1978

The Honorable S. I. Hayakawa
United States Senator
1390 Market Street
Suite 820, Fox Plaza
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Senator Hayakawa:

This is in reply to your letter of December 19, 1977, to former Chairman Marcus Rowden that the NRC allow interim operation by the General Electric Company of its GETR facility, pending completion of the public hearings.

The enclosure entitled "Matters of Concern in Connection with Nuclear Regulatory Commission's October 24, 1977 Show Cause Order to General Electric Company Relating to the General Electric Test Reactor" with its attachments provides the requested comments and other relevant information.

As stated in the enclosure, public interest in this matter has been high. The NRC has been requested to hold public hearings on the Show Cause issue before allowing continued operation of the GETR. The Commission is currently reviewing two specific petitions - one from the Honorable Ronald V. Dellums and one from Friends of the Earth - which ask for a hearing before resumption of GETR operation is authorized. If these petitions are granted, the decision to allow interim operation rests with the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. This Board will receive testimony from the NRC staff, General Electric Company and other hearing participants at the public hearing, on which its decision will be based.

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Senator S. I. Hayakawa - 2 -

We trust that the information in the enclosure is responsive to your concern regarding issuance of the October 24, 1977 Order, which directed the present shutdown of the GETR facility and with efforts being made to resolve the issues that led to the issuance of our Order.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Assistant Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:

Matters of Concern in Connection with
Nuclear Regulatory Commission's
October 24, 1977 Show Cause Order
to General Electric Company Relating
to the General Electric Test Reactor

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