

May 11, 1979

Mr. James R. Yore, Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing
Board Panel
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555



Dear Mr. Yore:

On April 2, 1979, I telegraphed you seeking your assurance that a decision on licensing the construction of the proposed Perkins Nuclear Power Plant in North Carolina be delayed until "all questions of nuclear safety arising from the Three Mile Island experience have been resolved." Your reply was appreciated but it did not address the central issue of licensing the plant.

This week, the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee passed legislation placing a moratorium on licensing nuclear power plants, and it is likely to pass the full Congress. As a result of this action, I fear that additional pressure might be brought to speed up the licensing process so that Perkins would not come under the legislation. I do not have to tell you the damaging effect that such a move - real or perceived - would have on public confidence in government and in the nuclear energy industry.

Therefore, I am compelled again to seek your assurance that a decision on licensing Perkins will not be made until the facts on nuclear safety are in or, at the very least, if the moratorium bill passes, until the term of the moratorium has ended.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN L. NEAL
Member of Congress

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD PANEL
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

Docket Nos.
STN 50-488
STN 50-489
STN 50-490

APR 17 1979



Honorable Stephen L. Neal
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: DUKE POWER COMPANY
(Perkins Nuclear Station,
Units 1, 2 and 3)

Dear Mr. Neal:

Your telegram of April 2, 1979, concerning the Duke Power Company's proposed Perkins Nuclear Plant was received by this office. At the present time the Commission is assessing the impact of the Three Mile Island experience on licensing and I will inform you of the results of that study as soon as it is available. We appreciate your interest in this matter.

Since the subject of your message concerns an adjudicatory proceeding, copies of your telegram and this reply will be served on all the parties in the Perkins proceeding and also filed in the Commission's Public Document Rooms.

Sincerely,

James R. Yore, Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing
Board Panel

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WESTERN UNION

Telegram

NO WOS - CL. OF SVC.	PD OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	THIS MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AS A TELEGRAM UNLESS IT IS OTHERWISE INDICATED.	PRESS		OVER NIGHT TELEGRAM
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Send the following message, subject to the Telegraph Company's conditions, rules and regulations, which are on file with regulatory authorities.

April 2, 1979

Energy / Nuclear

Mr. James R. Yore, Chairman
 Atomic Safety Licensing Board
 Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 1717 H Street, N.W.
 Washington, D. C. 20555

Because of the present serious situation at the Three Mile Island Nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, I respectfully insist that you hold up licensing of Duke Power Company's proposed Perkins Nuclear Plant in North Carolina until all questions of nuclear safety arising from the Three Mile Island experience have been resolved.

The unfortunate event in Pennsylvania has created widespread suspicion about the safety of nuclear power plants, and public distrust of the nuclear licensing and regulatory process. The spectre of nuclear disaster looms in the public mind, if not in reality, and I do not believe it would be prudent to proceed with any nuclear project until a clear determination is made concerning the cause, effect, and correction of the near-disaster at Three Mile Island.

STEPHEN L. NEAL
 U. S. Congressman



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