

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20418

June 21, 1979

The Honorable
Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20555

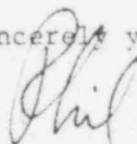
Dear Mr. Hendrie:

The sense of the recent annual meeting of the membership of the National Academy of Sciences was that the Academy should do all that it can to assist the federal government in the task of improving the safety of our nuclear energy program. The concern was occasioned by the Three Mile Island incident, and as a result I have communicated to Frank Press the interest of the Academy in providing services to the federal government. Frank suggested that I also inform you and the Secretary of Energy, directly, of the interest of the Academy in being of assistance.

Although there are several ways in which the Academy might be helpful, the membership felt that the Academy could be of service in conducting studies to analyze the operational characteristics of various designs of light water reactors to identify their potential failure modes, and by studies of the training of nuclear power plant operators. Both studies, of course, would be seeking recommendations directed at significant improvements of the safety of our nuclear energy program.

It is clear that we will have to await the results of the deliberations of the Kemeny Commission before actions are taken, but I felt that it is important, at this time, to bring to your attention the interest of the Academy.

Sincerely yours,



Philip Handler
President

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