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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 20, 1979

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



Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to request the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to hold public hearings in Middletown, Pennsylvania prior to making any decision to approve either the discharge of water contaminated during the accident at Three Mile Island Unit #2 into the Susquehanna River or the return of Three Mile Island Unit #1 to commercial operation.

The accident at Three Mile Island Unit #2 raised serious questions about the adequacy of the existing nuclear regulatory system. The dissemination of contradictory information about the accident, the existence of significant uncertainty among experts as to what happened and the possibility of violations of basic safety regulations have severely undermined public confidence in the nuclear regulatory system, the nuclear industry and the safety of commercial nuclear power generation.

The decisions the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will make concerning the future of the Three Mile Island facility are particularly significant to those who reside near the plant. If any appreciable degree of public confidence in nuclear power is to be restored, it is imperative that the neighbors of the Three Mile Island power plant have the opportunity to ask questions, and to raise their concerns in a public forum. These individuals should not be denied the opportunity to participate in decisions which will directly effect their

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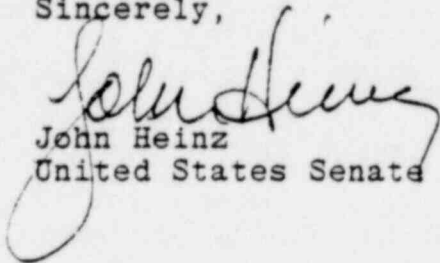
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lives. Therefore, I urge the Commission to hold hearings in Middletown on these issues before any action is taken.

Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,



John Heinz  
United States Senate

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