

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

AUG 0 5 1979

Mr. Robert L. Johnston Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary P.O. Box 2210 Wake Forest, NC 27587

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Your recent letter to Chairman Hendrie concerning the accident at Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 2 expressing your views on nuclear power was referred to this office for response. We appreciate your concerns and assure you that every effort is being made to ensure the continued protection of the health and safety of the public not only at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, but also at all nuclear power plants.

We have taken or are taking a number of actions with respect to all nuclear power plants as a result of the Three Mile Island accident. Specifically, full-time inspectors have been assigned to each operating plant utilizing Babcock & Wilcox pressurized water reactors like those at Three Mile Island. In addition, the licensees of all these plants which were not already shut down have voluntarily shut down their plants. We are issuing confirmatory orders to the licensees of all Babcock & Wilcox reactors like those at Three Mile Island to assure that necessary plant modifications, additional training and revised operating procedures will be effected prior to resuming operation.

Licensess of all operating plants utilizing pressurized water reactors have been instructed to take specific actions with regard to the status of certain equipment, plant procedures, operator actions and facility designs. Licensees of all operating plants, including those utilizing boiling water reactors, have been instructed to provide us with additional information with regard to their facilities in light of the Three Mile Island accident. In addition, substantial effort is being expended within this ajency to evaluate the factors which contributed to the Three Mile Island accident and to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

We will carefully review all the information obtained and developed as a result of the Three Mile Island accident and take whatever further action is deemed appropriate.

Sincerely,

Director

Harold R. Denton, Director Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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