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The Honorable Thad Cochran United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cochran:

I am sorry that this reply to your letter of May 4, 1979, has been delayed. As you know, the NRC has been occupied with continued support of the efforts at Three Mile Island, orders to other facilities, appearances before the President's Commission and various committee of Congress that are investigating the Three Mile Island accident, and the realignment of our own resources and priorities to give immediate attention to the problems resulting from the accident.

You enclosed a telegram from the President of the Mississippi Power and Light Company expressing concern about the closing of nine operating nuclear power plants of Babcock and Wilcox design and the effect on the summer peak margin.

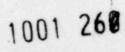
During the period of May 7, 1979 through May 17, 1979, the NRC ordered all nuclear plants similar in design to the Three Mile Island plant to shut down or to remain shut down pending the satisfactory completion of immediate actions to increase the capacity and reliability of the plants to respond to various transient events. There were seven operating units involved. Subsequently, the Director of the NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation made findings of satisfactory compliance which permitted resumption of operation, the last such finding being on July 6, 1979 (Arkansas Unit 1 was permitted to resume operation on June 14, 1979). This was before the time when peaks are usually experienced. Licensees are also required to accomplish long-term modifications as promptly as practicable. Three Mile Island, Unit 2 is not operable and won't be for a long time to come. The Three Mile Island, Unit 1 was ordered to remain shut down until further order of the Commission itself after a public hearing.

We are mindful of the economic hardships that can occur as a result of shutting down the operation of nuclear power plants. We have made every effort to avoid any unnecessary delays in permitting resumption of operation, while giving priority to our responsibilities to ensure continued protection of the health and safety of the public.

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FROM:		ACTION CONTROL	DATES	CONTROL NO.		
Sen. Tisti Cochran		COMPL DEADLINE	5/23/7	06223		
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		INTERIM REPLY		5/4/79		
TO:			1	PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE		
		FINAL REPLY / /	1 4	OF:		
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79-1340	Logging Date 5/9/79
NRC SECRET	
	Date
TO: Commissioner.	Gen, Counsel
XXXX Exec. Dir./Oper.	Solicitor
Cong. Liaison	Secretary
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Incoming:Senator Thad Con	rral from Donald Lutken.
From: Constituent rele	ni Power a Light
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Subject: Requests info. 0	n impact of shutdown of
B&W reactors	
Prepare reply for signature of:	
Chairman	
Commissioner	
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Signature block omitted	
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Return original of incoming with res	sponse
-	May 18
For direct reply Suspe	nse: May 18
For direct reply* Susper For appropriate action	nse: May 18
For appropriate action For information	Rec'd Off. 53-7
 For appropriate action For information For recommendation 	Rec'd Off. 53-7
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For appropriate action For information For recommendation Remarks: OCA to Acknowledge	Rec'd Off. 53-7/1/79 Date
For appropriate action For information For recommendation	Rec'd Off. Egg/./.7.9 Date

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