

AUG 17 1979

Distribution
-Docket files 50-320
TSB r/f
GErter (EDO-6223)
MGroff (EDO-6223)
HDenton
NRC PDR
Local PDR

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

SECY
CA

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 committees 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.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T. A. Rehm

Handwritten initials: EA, H, CA, and a signature.

POOR ORIGINAL

OFFICE	NRR:PSS:PCF	NRR:BD	Lee V. Gossick	NRR:D	EDO
SURNAME	PFine:mmt	EGCase	Executive Director for Operations		LVGossick
DATE	8-14-79	8-14-79		8-14-79	8-15-79

2 909240/50
1001 259
60

45/201

FROM: Sen. Thad Cochran	ACTION CONTROL	DATES	CONTROL NO.
	COMPL DEADLINE	5/23/79	06223
	ACKNOWLEDGMENT		DATE OF DOCUMENT
	INTERIM REPLY		5/4/79
TO: OCA	FINAL REPLY	5/1/81	PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:
	FILE LOCATION		<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN
			<input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DESCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS	
Telegram from Donald C. Lutken, Pres. of Mississippi Power & Light, concerning effect of the closing of B&W plants on availability of power during peak summer season		See on Copy Station	
CLASSIFIED DATA			
DOCUMENT/COPY NO.	CLASSIFICATION		
NUMBER OF PAGES	CATEGORY		
POSTAL REGISTRY NO.	<input type="checkbox"/> NSI <input type="checkbox"/> RD <input type="checkbox"/> FPE		
ASSIGNED TO:	DATE	INFORMATION ROUTING	LEGAL REVIEW
<i>Bunch</i>	5/14/79	<i>Jeanne Cook</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> COPY
		<i>Case</i>	NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY:
		<i>all copy skills</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRES BR
			EXT. _____
			COMMENTS, NOTIFY:
			EXT. _____
JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED:			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

NRC FORM 232 (11-75)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

DO NOT REMOVE THIS COPY

PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

POOR ORIGINAL

1001 260

No. 79-1340 Logging Date 5/9/79

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO: Commissioner. _____ Date _____
 Exec. Dir./Oper. _____ Gen. Counsel _____
 Cong. Liaison _____ Solicitor _____
 Public Affairs _____ Secretary _____

Incoming: Senator Thad Cochran
 From: Constituent referral from Donald Lutken,
Pres., Mississippi Power & Light
 To: Carl Kammerer, OCA Date 5/4/79
 Subject: Requests info. on impact of shutdown of
B&W reactors

Prepare reply for signature of:

- Chairman _____
 Commissioner _____

EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY

- Signature block omitted _____

 Return original of incoming with response

- For direct reply* Suspend: May 18
 For appropriate action
 For information
 For recommendation

Rec'd Off. EDO
 Date..... 5/11/79.....
 Time..... 3:15.....

Remarks: OCA to Acknowledge

For the Commission: Combs

*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Mail Facility