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

AUG 7 1979

Ms. Anita L. Green
R.D. #1, Box 183-1
Gardners, Pennsylvania 17324

Dear Ms. Green:

I am pleased to respond to your letter to Chairman Hendrie regarding your concerns about nuclear power and the Three Mile Island accident and your comment related to the Zimmer plant in Ohio.

I appreciate your concern regarding the safety of nuclear power plants, radiation contamination and the protection of the public health and safety, including school children, from harmful consequences as the result of using nuclear power. I want to assure you that the Commission has these concerns foremost in their minds as well.

You are correct in your feeling that we have learned many things as a result of the TMI-2 accident that deserve the most careful and penetrating evaluation. Over the past four months, an all-out effort has been mounted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to examine the events of the accident, both before and after, in order to determine where changes and improvements must be made by the industry and by the Commission to assure that such an accident does not happen again. While these investigations are continuing, they have already resulted in recommendations which are specifically directed at improvements in design and operation of nuclear power plants and in emergency preparedness. Before any licenses or permits are granted to operate or construct a nuclear power plant, including the Zimmer plant in Ohio, I want to assure you that they will be required to comply with the results of these investigations.

The previous safety record of nuclear power has been a reasonably good one because, I believe, of Federal regulatory requirements and review. While some small comfort can be derived from the fact that because of these requirements, structures and equipment were in place which functioned as required to contain the accident and no catastrophic release of radioactivity occurred, nevertheless, the accident at TMI-2 has caused a searching inward look at ourselves and the industry.

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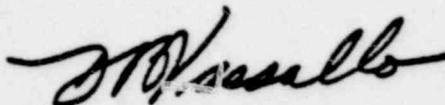
Ms. Anita L. Green

- 2 -

AUG 7 1979

I believe that as a result of this uncompromising review, the safety of nuclear power plants will be further enhanced and emergency preparedness significantly improved so that nuclear power can, if deemed a necessary part of our energy production, continue in such a role with adequate protection of the public health and safety.

Sincerely,



D. B. Vassallo, Acting Director
Division of Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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