

711 Parker Blvd. #7
Buffalo, New York 14223
July 4, 1979

Joseph M. Hendrie
Head
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Dear Mr. Hendrie,

I have recently become aware of the fact that the NRC has issued new regulations that will no longer make it necessary to routinely report the level of strontium 90 in local soil and milk. Strontium 90 has been regarded by the scientific community as the most toxic of all fission products produced during nuclear testing, collecting in the bones, possibly causing leukemia and other cancers. The reporting by the NRC of only external gamma radiation doses received from passing clouds of radioactive gasses fails to calculate the total dose received by critical organs and bones from inhalation of fission gasses- those producing the greatest biological damage.

Concerning Three Mile Island, the claims by the NRC that pure xenon and some traces of iodine 131 were the only radioactive gasses released is misleading and certainly unproven by information available to the public. If the only instruments available for radioactive analysis were the simple thermo luminescent dosimeter, an instrument incapable of distinguishing between different chemical elements that give rise to the gamma radiation, then deliberate fabrications have been perpetrated.

In addition it is now known that the Atomic Energy Commission was cognizant of a potential "hydrogen bubble" complication should the primary cooling system malfunction in the plant. Approval of the construction was granted with the nebulous idea that by the time complications arose, perhaps in 10 years, they would most certainly have the technology to stem any crisis.

With revelations such as these appearing with increasing depth of charge, there are serious doubts in my mind concerning the Regulatory function of the NRC. Recent actions are dangerously close to fuel for arguments that the NRC is primarily concerned with protecting the nuclear industry rather than determining its safety for our country.

I have deep convictions against nuclear power and nuclear armaments. These fears could possibly be lessened if I was sure that the official regulatory commission was carefully scrutinizing, for the public's good, the nuclear industry.

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As proposals are made for new reactors, there should be an investigation into the inherent problems of the plant, and whether they can be safely handled by existing technology. There should be a vote, by all people affected by the power, and anyone within a fifty mile radius of the proposed construction site to determine public opinion. It should not be built if the majority so decides.

Furthermore, all nuclear power plants should be thoroughly re-investigated, with shutdowns following any inconsistencies with more stringent radioactive standards, including concise labelling of radioactive elements.

As a concerned citizen, I would appreciate copies of the new regulations about the release and subsequent analysis and labelling of any radioactive material released by a nuclear power plant. Also, I would very much like to see how these decisions on public safety are reached, including the names of sources used to reach these standards, the types of debates and hearings held, and the voting process and names of the voters.

Sincerely,

Gary Ciurczak

Gary Ciurczak
University of Buffalo