



OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

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

COMM
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August 8, 1979

The Honorable Walter F. Mondale
President of the Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

POOR ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. President:

We submit herewith the sixteenth report on abnormal occurrences at licensed nuclear facilities, as required by Section 208 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (PL 93-438).

In the context of the Act, an abnormal occurrence is an unscheduled incident or event which the Commission determines is significant from the standpoint of public health or safety. In order to expedite the preparation of the report and its submission to the Congress, the report for the first quarter of 1979 is based upon incidents or events that the Commission determined during the quarter were significant and reportable. These incidents or events, including any submitted by the Agreement States, are as follows:

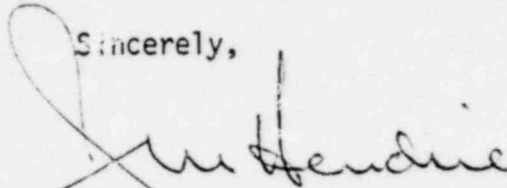
1. There were three abnormal occurrences at the 70 nuclear power plants licensed to operate. One was the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island, the second involved deficiencies in piping design (resulting in five plants being shut down), and the third involved degraded engineered safety systems. (Note - Although the formal procedural determinations for the first two items were not completed in the first quarter of calendar 1979, the events are included because of their importance and the extensive publicity they received.)
2. There was one abnormal occurrence at fuel cycle facilities (other than nuclear power plants). The event pertained to an extortion attempt involving alleged theft of licensed material.
3. There were no abnormal occurrences at other licensee facilities.
4. There were no abnormal occurrences reported by the Agreement States.

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In addition to this report, we will continue to disseminate information on reportable events. These event reports are routinely distributed on a timely basis to the Congress, industry and the general public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. M. Hendrie". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman

Enclosure:
Report to Congress
on Abnormal Occurrences

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