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Secretary of the Commission
Nuclear Regulation Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

August 20, 1979

Dear Commissioners,

Network is a Santa Barbara based community group with over 350 members. We are concerned with environmental and social issues on a local level. Recently we have learned the NRC is soliciting public input on emergency planning and preparedness programs in case there are nuclear accidents. Santa Barbara is close to the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant which presents a tremendous safety threat to our community. Therefore we think it is essential to have a working emergency preparedness plan for this area before the Diablo plant is licensed.

The basic objective of emergency planning should be to prevent public radiation exposure. The entire nuclear power industry should be required to prove nuclear power is safe in order to continue operating plants and before any more nuclear power plants are licensed. If plants continue operating, stringent safety precautions should be enforced and emergency plans could be prepared for nuclear power plant accidents, accidents which may occur while transporting radioactive material, and accidents which may occur at nuclear waste storage sites. Private industry and government departments, such as the Defense Department, which use radioactive material should be accountable to the public.

We believe nuclear power plants run by utility companies present a great safety and financial risk to a community. Therefore, as with any business, the companies should be prepared to pay all costs, including: preparing emergency evacuation plans and periodic updates of the plan, insurance, providing emergency evacuation plans to the public, compensation to area residents if they are adversely affected by an emergency, training and hiring special emergency staff, training local police and fire departments, as well as doctors and other community members who would be needed in case of an emergency and any other expenses which would be incurred in case an emergency situation arises.

As the nation learned from the Three Mile Island accident, the NRC did not have an adequate emergency program. We believe it is essential to have such programs throughout the country for each nuclear power plant site. Because economics often dictate in the government's energy policies, nuclear power plants are on line today with inadequate emergency plans. It is important to develop new regulations as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ann Schwartz

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Network Staff

Acknowledged by card...dlh 9/4/79

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