



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PIERRE S. DU PONT
GOVERNOR

May 31, 1979

LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER 19901
(802) 678-4101

Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

The recent incident at Three Mile Island has once again reminded us of the necessity to provide an effective regulatory program which assures the maximum level of safety and protection for our citizens and which also provides for acceptable reliability of electrical generation facilities.

It is in the interest of not only the safety, health and welfare of our citizens, but also the future of nuclear energy that every effort be made to inspect existing installations and those on the drawing boards to assure similar types of mechanical failures do not occur.

In light of this, I respectfully request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission increase the level of the inspection at the Salem I plant which is currently down for normal refueling and maintenance. This inspection should be expanded to include all safety and operational systems. Also, I would request that all other nuclear plants including those at Peach Bottom be considered for similar type of inspections.

Additionally, I would urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to proceed with extreme caution in the licensing of future nuclear plants and recommend that the present practice of grouping nuclear plants such as currently exist at Salem and Hope Creek be discontinued.

If we cannot adequately address the safety and reliability of nuclear facilities, we must face the reality that they have no acceptable place in our energy future.

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The role of nuclear energy, particularly over the next quarter century, is critical to our overall energy programs, and we must do everything within our power to answer the questions and doubts which stand in the way of its utilization.

Sincerely,



Pierre S. du Pont
Governor

PSduP/dpk

cc: President Carter
Secretary Schlesinger
Senator Roth
Senator Biden
Representative Evans
Delaware Safe Energy Coalition
Coalition for Nuclear Power Postponement
Lower New Castle County Citizens Association
Port Penn Civic Association

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