

THOMAS H. BATES  
MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY  
TWELFTH DISTRICT  
CHAIRMAN  
EQUICOMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

April 5, 1979



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

Dear Chairman Hendrie:

The recent events at the Three-Mile Island Nuclear Plant in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, have cast serious doubts about the validity of safety procedures and safeguards at nuclear plants. The public has, in the past, been given assurances by utility companies, the nuclear industry, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the problems that occurred at Harrisburg were highly unlikely, if not impossible. In addition, the recent repudiation of the Rasmussen Report with regard to the probabilities of nuclear accidents also calls into question the basis on which previous decisions of the nuclear industry have been made. The public is at present greatly alarmed about the potential consequences of serious nuclear accidents and many people, including members of this Legislature, are re-examining their attitudes about nuclear power.

This situation casts new light on the current controversy with regard to the licensing of the Diablo Canyon nuclear reactor. There have been many serious questions raised with regard to plant safety, particularly concerning the seismic hazards at the plant. We have heard conflicting reports with regard to plant design and safety assurances and conflicting reports regarding the manner in which the Nuclear Regulatory Commission arrived at its decision to approve the plant. A plant which is located 2-1/2 miles from an earthquake fault capable of a shock


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of 7.5 on the Richter scale must be absolutely and conclusively safe before it begins operation. Attempts during the process of approval to underplay the seriousness of the fault casts doubt on the assurances we have heard so far with regard to plant safety.

In light of the above, we, the undersigned members of the California Legislature, believe that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should postpone the granting of a license to operate the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant. We believe that there are enough serious questions about the safety of this plant which, taken with the current situation, warrant a delay in the licensing until such time as the public receives additional strict assurances about the safety of the plant.


Sincerely,

  
THOMAS H. BATES  
Member of the Assembly

LAWRENCE KAPILOFF  
Member of the Assembly

MIKE GAGE  
Member of the Assembly

ART AGNOS  
Member of the Assembly

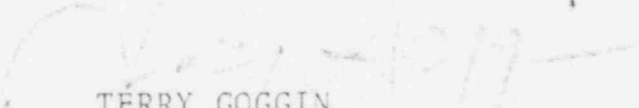
  
HOWARD L. BERMAN  
Member of the Assembly

  
WILLIE BROWN, Jr.

ART TORRES  
Member of the Assembly

ELIHU M. HARRIS  
Member of the Assembly

DOUGLAS H. BOSCO  
Member of the Assembly

  
TERRY GOGGIN  
Member of the Assembly

RICHARD ALATORRE  
Member of the Assembly

GWEN MOORE  
Member of the Assembly

  
SALLY TANNER

HERSCHEL ROSENTHAL  
Member of the Assembly

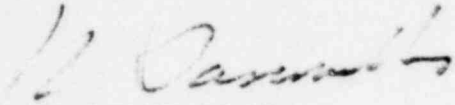
RICHARD HAYDEN  
Member of the Assembly

TERESA P. HUGHES  
Member of the Assembly

MAXINE WATERS  
Member of the Assembly

JIM COSTA  
Member of the Assembly

LEONA EGELAND  
Member of the Assembly

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Vasconcellos", written in dark ink.

JOHN VASCONCELLOS  
Member of the Assembly