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March 8, 1979

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50-522,523



Honorable Joseph Hendrie
 Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Hendrie:

Members of Indian tribes in the vicinity of the proposed Skagit reactors have informed the Committee of their belief that the project's impacts upon the tribal members' health, social structure, and fishing livelihood have not been adequately addressed in the Skagit Environmental Impact Statement. I am also aware that the NRC staff does not agree with the Indians.

I do not intend to address the question of the adequacy of the Environmental Impact Statement. On the other hand, because the Indians believe the project has the potential to lead to a major disruption in their way of life, the fact that they have found the Environmental Impact Statement unsatisfactory is itself significant. I believe, therefore, that it is important that the Commission assure itself that the Indians' concerns are fully addressed in a manner consistent with the law.

This is not only a matter of equity. It would seem part of a sound licensing process that the matters in question be thoroughly analyzed prior to issuance of a construction permit.

I appreciate the Commission's attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

M. Udall
 MORRIS K. UDALL
 Chairman

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