

MIDDLETOWN, VA. 22645



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HONORABLE TOM LOEFFLER  
US HOUSE OF REP  
1213 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BLDG  
WASHINGTON DC 20515

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENDRIE:

IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION HAS SUSPENDED THE CONSIDERATION OF NEW LICENSES FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS UNTIL AT LEAST THE SPRING OF 1980. THERE EXISTS A REAL POSSIBILITY THAT THE COMANCHE PEAK STEAM ELECTRIC STATION OF THE TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY, WHICH REPRESENTS AN INVESTMENT OF APPROXIMATELY \$1.7 BILLION AND SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 1981 AND OCTOBER 1983 COMMERCIAL OPERATION FOR UNIT 1 AND UNIT 2 RESPECTIVELY, MAY BE AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. FUEL LOADING TO SUPPORT THE ABOVE SCHEDULE WOULD OCCUR DURING THE SPRING OF 1981 FOR UNIT 1. THIS IS ONLY ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE THE NRC CLAIMS NORMAL LICENSING PROCEEDINGS WILL RESUME. ESTIMATES TO STUDY SUCH AN IMPORTANT ISSUE COULD EASILY BE PROLONGED. ANY DELAY IN LICENSING THIS UNIT WILL PLACE AN UNDULY LARGE ECONOMIC BURDEN ON THE RATEPAYERS OF TEXAS.

I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE THAT THE INDUSTRY HAS ALREADY IMPLEMENTED MORE STRINGENT REGULATIONS ON ITSELF. IN ADDITION, THE TEXAS UTILITIES COMPANY HAS JUST COMPLETED A 6-MONTH'S REVIEW OF THE TMI INCIDENT AND HAS ACCORDINGLY MADE NUMEROUS CHANGES IN DESIGN, OPERATING AND TRAINING PROCEDURES.

WE URGE THE COMMISSION TO RESCIND ITS POLICY AND IMMEDIATELY BEGIN CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW LICENSES. THE ALREADY UNORDINATELY LONG LICENSING AND CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IS AMPLE TIME FOR PARTICULAR PROBLEMS TO BE REVIEWED AND RESOLVED.

(COPIES SENT TO ALL MEMBERS OF TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION)

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS  
GEORGE M. COWDEN, CHAIRMAN  
H. MOAK ROLLINS, COMMISSIONER  
GARETT MORRIS, COMMISSIONER  
14:56 EST

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