

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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October 22, 1979

Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Congressional Relations  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20505

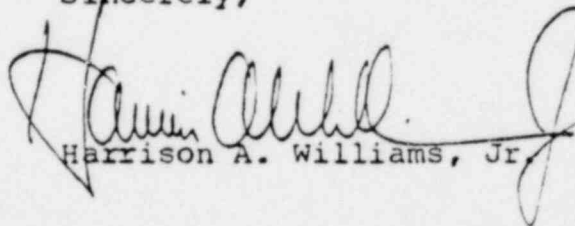
Dear Director:

Enclosed you will find correspondence I have received from Freeholder Robert A. Gasser of Toms River, New Jersey.

I would appreciate any information which will enable me to respond to my constituent's inquiry. Please return the enclosed correspondence with your report.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

  
HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR.

HAW/jm  
Enclosure

9245 70 300,

# THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

OCEAN COUNTY, N.J.  
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08753  
1979 OCT 13 AM 10:03



Robert A. Gasser  
Freeholder

(201) 244-2121  
Ext. 420 or 421

*[Handwritten signature]*

October 9, 1979

Honorable Harrison A. Williams  
United States Senator  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Williams:

On October 3, 1979, I offered a resolution passed by the Ocean County Board of Freeholders in support of the efforts of Public Advocate Stanley Van Ness to suspend the construction permit of the second nuclear power plant in Forked River, New Jersey.

EDU 7530

I offered this resolution because of my concerns of the design safety plans for this plant which are now over 6 years old. My concern is substantiated by a recent newspaper article in which an official of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission stated that major improvements will almost certainly be required in the design before the plant is allowed to operate. I have enclosed a copy of the article.

I would like to request that you personally look into this matter and get back to me on your progress. I am very appreciative of any assistance you could provide to ensure the safety of the citizens of Ocean County.

Very truly yours  
*Robert A. Gasser*

ROBERT A. GASSER  
Freeholder

RAG/nf  
Enclosures

# POOR ORIGINAL



## Permit-Shy A-Plant Trails in Safety Needs

*Asbury Park Press Oct 5, 1979*

By STEPHEN KENT  
Press Staff Writer

Blueprints for the Forked River nuclear power plant in Lacey Township are outdated that federal regulators have begun to doubt the plant would conform to new safety rules.

Major improvements will almost certainly be required in the design before the plant is allowed to operate, according to Robert A. Benedict, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission engineer who oversees the project.

The 1,100-megawatt generating station, which Jersey Central Power & Light Co. began building seven years ago on the site of its Oyster Creek nuclear plant, has fallen far behind schedule.

Noting that the plant was designed in the early 1970s and will not be completed until 1985 at the earliest, Benedict told the Asbury Park Press yesterday that "we would have reservations about licensing a plant of that age unless it were upgraded."

The plant originally was scheduled to begin operations last year, but has lagged so badly that its NRC construction permit, granted in 1973, has expired with only 5 percent of the plant built.

In contrast, the 13 other nuclear plants that received construction permits that year are all at least half complete, and several are scheduled to begin generating power in the next few months.

JCP&L said it stopped work on the Forked River plant in April because the utility ran out of cash.

The company says it has already spent \$50 million on the plant, about one-quarter of the anticipated investment. Yet work has not progressed beyond the foundations.

With construction likely to remain suspended for another two or three years, the plant's design would be about 15 years old by the time the NRC must decide whether to grant it an operating license, Benedict said in a telephone interview from NRC headquarters in Washington.

"The plant design is old," he said, "older than any other that would be coming on line at the time of completion of construction."

"We would be very much involved in reviewing the plant" under safety standards more modern, and in some ways more strict, than those it had to meet in 1973, the engineer added.

In particular, Benedict said: "The Forked River plant's reactor vessel was designed to industry standards in effect in 1971."

• The steel-and-concrete containment building, which is supposed to keep radiation from escaping from the plant in case of accident, was designed to specifications that have since been discarded.

• Standards guaranteeing that nuclear plants can withstand earthquakes without leaking radiation have been updated.

• Lessons from the March accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor in Pennsylvania are certain to spawn a host of new safety rules.

and ordination of women, and mass unemployment continues to drop sharply. Scheduled for later today was a papal See POPE, BISHOPS Page A4

... cited were indeed beyond (the utility's) control."

Every nuclear reactor must obtain two licenses, one permitting construction and another allowing the plant to operate once construction is finished.

At both stages, NRC engineers must determine whether the plant meets a host of standards that protect the public from radiation.

For the construction permit, the NRC investigates the proposed design. For the operating license, the agency looks at the way the plant was built and decides whether it meets current standards, which are updated each year.

It is not uncommon for reactor construction to fall somewhat behind schedule. But Benedict said the "unusual" delay at the Forked River plant would make the NRC's task in reviewing an operating license more difficult.

## Rising Jobless Numbers Add to Economic Woes

WASHINGTON (AP) — While inflation runs unchecked, a rising jobless rate is threatening the nation with further economic woes and the Carter administration with more political problems.

Labor Department officials predicted September employment figures scheduled to be released today would show a rise in the jobless rate for a third consecutive month.

That would be more troublesome news

for the administration, which was informed by the Labor Department yesterday that wholesale prices in September jumped 1.4 percent — the largest monthly increase in nearly five years. That means more consumer price inflation is almost certain in the next few months.

The nation's unemployment rate has been climbing since hitting a five-year low of 5.6 percent in June. The rate rose to 5.7 percent in July and in August reached 6 percent — the highest in more than a year.

Administration economists predicted the September unemployment rate would be around 6.1 percent or 6.2 percent.

Each 0.1 percent rise in the rate means 103,000 more people are out of work.

The administration says the latest rise in unemployment is the result of an economic downturn during the spring. The administration expects unemployment to keep rising to

### Correction

ASBURY PARK — The Asbury Park Press Sept. 28 and 30 erroneously identified James Vito Montemarano, Matilda Terrace, Long Branch, as an employee of the Harbor Island Spa Disco, according to the spa's lawyer.

Barry R. Stott, lawyer for the spa, said in a letter to The Press that Montemarano

## UAW Approval Unsure Despite Accord at Ford

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Ford Motor Co. and the United Auto Workers went down to the wire to reach a tentative new contract, but the UAW concedes membership approval is not a sure thing and a strike still is possible.

The three-year pact covering 190,000 Ford workers in the United States was wrapped up at 11:22 p.m. yesterday, 37 minutes before the deadline. It was announced six minutes later while both teams were in the bargaining room.

"The tension in there was unbelievable," said a union source. "They knew they had to get the word out to the locals."

Some of the public rejoicing seemed a little forced on both sides, and workers at one plant without the word walked out at midnight.

## Howell Teen in Florida Indicted in Man's Death

FREEHOLD — A Monmouth County grand jury has charged an 18-year-old Howell Township man with aiding two Howell juveniles in the August murder of Anatas Carolov.

Christopher J. Hoplock, indicted by the grand jury yesterday, is being held by police in Florida, where he is fighting extradition back to New Jersey.

Carolov, 34, of Lakewood, was bludgeoned to death, according to an autopsy report. His decomposed body was found last month in a shallow grave off Route 9 in southern Howell Township.

First Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Paul F. Chaiet said the charge of aiding and abetting murder carries the same penalty as a murder charge, with a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Hoplock, of Roosevelt Terrace, Howell Township, also was charged with being an

Aug. 8 by providing transportation and refuge.

Hoplock is also charged with keeping the murder secret instead of reporting it to authorities.

The two juveniles, who are brothers, were charged with murder after their arrest Sept. 25 in Old Bridge Township. A hearing on whether the two will be charged as adults is scheduled for Thursday.

Hoplock was arrested in Florida last month after juvenile informants led police to Carolov's grave.

The juveniles also had attempted to dismantle Carolov's truck and bury the pieces police said.

Hoplock was apprehended Sereno Vero Beach, Fla., restaurant part-time employee.

Vero Beach police said he meant accusing the two juveniles

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R E S O L U T I O N

October 3, 1979

WHEREAS, Jersey Central Power & Light Company filed a construction permit application in 1970, and was issued a permit in 1973, for a second nuclear power plant in Forked River, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, based upon current expectations, the plant design could be as much as 15 years old when the Nuclear Regulatory Commission begins the operating license review; and

WHEREAS, the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania, has given rise to questions pertaining not only to design safety, but also with regard to Jersey Central Power & Light Company's financial capability to complete the construction at Forked River; and

WHEREAS, these factors have caused New Jersey Public Advocate Stanley Van Ness to request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission suspend the construction permit issued to Jersey Central Power & Light Company for a second nuclear power plant in Forked River;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS of the COUNTY OF COCOS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that this Board hereby supports the efforts of Public Advocate Stanley Van Ness to have the aforementioned construction permit suspended.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution shall be sent to United State Senators Harrison A. Williams, Jr. and Bill Bradley, United States Congressmen Edwin B. Roemer, James J. Howard, and William J. Hughes, and Public Advocate Stanley Van Ness.

I hereby certify this to be a true copy of a Resolution passed by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Cocos on the

3rd day of October, 1979

W. B. King  
County Clerk

POOR ORIGINAL