

H. E. Whatley
President

ALLOY RODS DIVISION

CHEMETRON CORPORATION
WILSON AVENUE HANOVER, PA 17331 717/637-0911

August 16, 1979

Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

As I indicated in my July 27 Telex to you, I believe it is in the best interest of all the people for your commission to recommend the government finance massive research projects to resolve the most pressing questions that must be solved...nuclear waste disposal, and what capacity can we generate in synthetic fuels. There is another long term project that the government should spearhead... nuclear fusion, which involves exotic technologies but has considerable, though distant, promise.

In the interim, with the long, ten-year lead time necessary to bring a nuclear plant on line, the government must immediately end the moratorium on licensing and construction and get planned nuclear power plants into operation. New tough standards should be set for certification of plants, the training of operators, and federal oversight procedures.

The ban on reprocessing spent nuclear fuel should be kept in force for the time being, as it appears that uranium will probably remain abundant enough to make recycling economically unnecessary in this century.

The government should launch a crash program to be completed within five years, to determine whether there is a more satisfactory way to dispose of the long-lived, highly toxic waste. A plan that will reduce the risk to a level acceptable to a "blue ribbon" commission of scientists appointed by the President.

Let us not fall prey to the antinuclear groups, but rather keep our nuclear program full speed ahead with adequate controls for our health and welfare. In the meantime, we can be investigating ways to conserve the energy we presently have and go forward with

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programs to further develop our use of coal, solar power, and other potential sources of energy.

The energy crisis is too big for industry alone to handle but with the government taking the lead and with industries' cooperation, we can in time remove this very real threat to our position of leadership in the world. We have never had a greater challenge.

Sincerely,



HEW:cab

cc: Mr. John R. Clugston, Manager
Western Division
Metropolitan Edison Company
P.O. Box 1909
York, PA 17405