



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, PROVIDENCE

J. Joseph Garrahy  
Governor

June 23, 1980

Mr. John F. Ahearne, Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Matomic Building  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Ahearne:

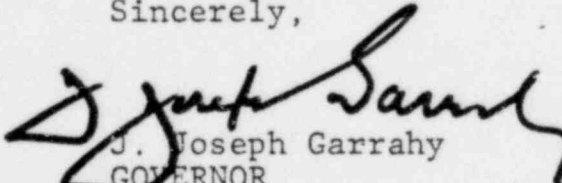
I am writing to express my deep concern regarding ongoing developments affecting operations at and decommissioning of the United Nuclear Corporation uranium reprocessing facility located in Wood River Junction, Rhode Island. These developments, clouded as they are in controversy, raise a variety of troubling issues which require the immediate and concerted attention of public officials at all levels of government.

I would, therefore, ask that you make available a representative or representatives of your agency to discuss this matter with myself and other interested state and local officials. Sometime on July 8 would be convenient to us all since it is my understanding that a public forum on the United Nuclear situation has been scheduled for that evening in the Town of Charlestown, Rhode Island. I am sure it would be useful for state and local officials to be briefed on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's involvement in the decommissioning process prior to this forum and that it would further be desirable for your representatives to attend.

In order to more accurately define for your information the range of this office's concerns relative to decommissioning of the United Nuclear facility, my Environmental Aide, Malcolm Grant, has prepared a list of questions which we would like to discuss further with your agency. This list is enclosed.

Your cooperation in expediting this matter will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
J. Joseph Garrahy  
GOVERNOR

Enclosure

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DISCUSSION ISSUES  
UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION  
DECOMMISSIONING PLANS

- 1) Is the pace and substance of the proposed NRC approved decommissioning process adequate to protect the public health and environment on and off the site?
- 2) Will residual radioactive and nitrate contamination of the site and underlying groundwater reservoirs first detected in 1977 compromise public health and the environment and/or limit future reuse of the site by industry or for public water supply?
- 3) How quickly, if at all, is the effected groundwater reservoir purging itself of radioactive and nitrate contamination?
- 4) What technologies and procedures are available to decontaminate the site and underlying groundwater reservoirs and which are proposed to be used?
- 5) What level or degree of decontamination will be found acceptable by NRC?
- 6) Who will be legally and financially responsible and to what extent for site decontamination, future monitoring, and reuse or redevelopment limitations caused by normal operations and accidental spillage at the reprocessing facility?