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The Honorable Carl Levin
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

POOR ORIGINAL

Dear Senator Levin:

This is in reply to your letter of September 13, 1979, to Mr. Harold I. Denton, Director of the NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, reiterating your strong feelings against lifting the moratorium on licensing new nuclear power plants.

On September 6, 1979, Mr. Denton briefed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on plans to implement changes in operating nuclear power plants related to the Three Mile Island accident and on the resumption of staff licensing activities on pending construction permit and operating license applications. The Commission requested that it be consulted prior to the issuance of all new licenses so that Commissioner views and the status of the report of the President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island can be taken into account.

The Commission also requested that the staff forward to all construction permit and operating license applicants for planning and guidance purposes the list of TMI-related items from the Lessons Learned Task Force Report and in various Bulletins and Orders, advising the applicants that the list is not complete and will be updated as new information becomes available. The Commission stated that the staff should continue to review on an on-going basis non-TMI related areas. The Commission noted that the staff would be providing in the near future a briefing on the recommendations for improvements in the operator licensing program. The Commission is still considering the question of how current licensing proceedings should be handled.

As a practical matter, some time will be required before licensing activities and proceedings can be completed on pending cases and before any licensing decision can be made.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Lee V. Gossick

Lee V. Gossick
Executive Director for Operations

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