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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JAN 9 1980

Mr. George S. Colburn, Vice-President
Blume Tree Services, Incorporated
P. O. Box 301
Houston, Texas 77001

Dear Mr. Colburn:

This is in reply to your letter of November 28, 1979, about licensing of
of nuclear power plants.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is committed to protect the public health
and safety. The Three Mile Island accident resulted in a need for changes in
the approach to safety. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has found that
actions recommended by its own staff and by the President's Commission on the
Accident at Three Mile Island in the areas of human factors, operational
safety, emergency planning, nuclear power plant design and siting, health
effects, and public information are necessary and feasible.

At this time we are preparing for review and approval by the Nuclear Regulatory
Commission an Action Plan that will specify the precise actions to be taken.
This Action Plan will include new or improved safety objectives, detailed
criteria for their implementation, and various implementation deadlines. Our
goal is to have approved NRC requirements available to all utilities shortly
after February 15, 1980.

It is recognized that there will be a significant effect on the availability
of power generating capacity if those plants now in the final stages of
construction do not receive operating licenses by the dates previously
anticipated, and every effort is being made to avoid unnecessary delays.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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POOR ORIGINAL

SUBJECT: Protests moratorium on nuclear reactors & supports use of nuclear energy.

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(Handwritten initials)

Blume Tree Services, Inc.

5920 STAR LANE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001

November 28, 1979

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X me

Mr. Harold R. Denton
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

On November 5, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission decided to stop issuing construction permits and operating licenses for nuclear power plants.

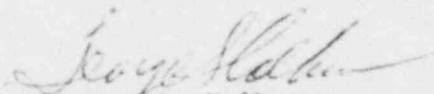
It is our opinion that the NRC freeze is ill-advised, ill-timed, and not in the best interest of the country. It comes at a time when we could be offsetting the oil we are losing from Iran. It is our understanding that there are seven nuclear units awaiting the licenses that would allow them to start operations. Since the typical nuclear reactor displaces about 10 million barrels of oil per year, this freeze comes at a time when we could use the oil.

Each week that these units are not in operation the cost, for each unit, to the consumer for interest and replacement energy will be \$4 million to \$8 million depending on whether the energy comes from coal, oil or a combination of the two. oo

The presidential commission which investigated the Three Mile Island accident rejected the kind of moratorium that the NRC has imposed. They suggested that each nuclear unit be considered on a plant by plant basis. This freeze ignores the many initiatives that have been taken by the nuclear power industry since the accident. The lessons learned from the accident can be, have been, and are being applied without the freeze.

We hope you will reconsider this action and begin to issue licenses and permits so that this vital industry can operate efficiently.

Very truly yours,


George S. Colburn
Vice-President

GSC/amh

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