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

JAN 9 1980

Mr. R. K. Campbell, President
Texas Power and Light Company
P. O. Box 226331
Dallas, Texas 75266

Dear Mr. Campbell:

This is in reply to your letter of November 21, 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,

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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SUBJECT: Requests that NRC reconsider decision to freeze DL & CP issuance due to higher consumer energy costs & nations inability to reduce oil dependency.

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TEXAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

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R. K. CAMPBELL
PRESIDENT
AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

November 21, 1979

Mr. Harold Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

We fail to understand, fully, the reasons behind the NRC's freeze on operating licenses and construction permits for nuclear generating facilities. It is cause for great concern.

The decision seems arbitrary at best. On one hand you have determined three operating reactors to be safe, based on the lessons learned at Three Mile Island. On the other hand, you have decided to impose delays on other reactors, not yet in operation, which have had the benefit of the TMI lessons. These reactors are copies of those certified by you as being safe.

What's more, the Commission has left the freeze open-ended, creating uncertainty for the industry and consumers as well. This was the very thing the Kemeny Commission feared in refusing to call for a moratorium.

Your action flies in the face of our nation's energy situation today. We need to conserve oil, not use more. Yet to meet our energy needs without additional nuclear power means, we must depend more heavily on oil, much of which is imported. The licensing of the reactors you have left in limbo could allow this country to use 450,000 less barrels of oil per day in the generation of electricity. That translates not only into conservation of a precious resource, but monetary savings for the consumer since we can generate electricity with nuclear at lower cost than we can with oil.

The lessons of Three Mile Island have not been lost on the industry. We have shown our good faith and responsibility in full support of the Kemeny Commission Report and through remedial efforts in the months since the events at Harrisburg.

We would urge you to reconsider this decision and get on with your assigned task of licensing nuclear facilities. Your failure to do so means higher energy costs to the consumer and a delay in this nation's ability to wean itself from dependence on oil.

Very truly yours,

R. K. Campbell
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