



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

CPDR

JAN 9 1980

Mr. John E. Van Hoomissen
303 Cliffside Drive
Danville, California 94526

Dear Mr. Van Hoomissen:

This is in reply to your letter of November 16, 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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 VAN HOUMISSEN, J Affiliation Unknown
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 DENTON, H.K. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

POOR ORIGINAL

SUBJECT: Discusses intl uncertainties posed by OPEC oil control.
 Urges NRC to increase use of nuclear power as means of
 becoming energy independent.

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303 Cliffside Drive
Danville, California 94526
November 16, 1979

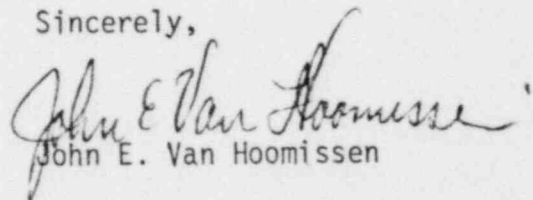
Mr. Harold Denton, Director
Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

In the face of the international uncertainties associated with oil and the obvious threat to U.S. economy posed by the OPEC oil control--and more recently the Iranian Crisis--procrastination in the full use of nuclear power is inexcusable. The freeze imposed by the NRC on issuance of operating licenses and construction permits for nuclear reactors seems to be completely illogical with respect to resolving our energy requirements in this country.

The nuclear option is needed now more than ever before. Of the alternates available, nuclear power is the cleanest, the cheapest and the safest--particularly after the lessons learned from TMI. Continuing this frustration of the nuclear option through licensing and construction delays increases our dependence on the OPEC nations for our energy needs. We must act now to increase our use of nuclear power as a means to becoming energy independent. Not to do so would be madness!

Sincerely,


John E. Van Hoomissen

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