JAMES F. ZBOYOVSKY President

November 29, 1979

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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director Nuclear Reactor Regulation Office 1717 H Street, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

On November 5, 1979, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission invoked a moratorium on issuing construction permits and licenses for nuclear power plants.

This freeze is in opposition to the recommendations of the presidential commission who investigated the Three Mile Island accident and suggested instead that each nuclear unit be considered on a plant-by-plant basis.

The freeze also ignores the many initiatives taken by the nuclear power industry since TMI by way of self-imposed actions that will make nuclear energy even safer.

According to industry sources, there are presently seven nuclear units awaiting the licenses that would allow them to begin commercial operation.

Each week that one of these reactors is not in operation, consumers will ultimately have to pay \$2 million in interest charges and another \$2 million to \$6 million for replacement energy costs depending on the type of fuel used.

A typical reactor displaces about 10 million barrels of oil a year, and this alone certainly could help to offset the oil we are losing because of the Iranian shut-off.

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Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director Nuclear Reactor Regulation Office 1717 H Street, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20555

If you agree that a continuing nuclear program would have a favorable impact on this country's energy and economic problems, then I urge you to do everything in your power to lift the moratorium on nuclear power plants and proceed with a licensing program as recommended by the presidential commission.

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