



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

JAN 9 1980

Mr. Jos. A. Roccaforte, Jr.  
Southern Metals Corporation  
P. O. Box 53131  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70805

Dear Mr. Roccaforte:

This is in reply to your letter of December 6, 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