

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

Dear Mr. Denton:

I have read with considerable dismay of the November 5 decision of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to freeze construction permits and operating licenses for nuclear power plants. This moratorium clearly contradicts the suggestions of the presidential commission after reviewing the Three Mile Island incident and, in my judgment, is not in keeping with the best interests of America or Americans.

You need not be reminded that no one has yet lost a life in any nuclear related accident; but if the potential hazards of nuclear development are the only, or even the major rationale for this ill advised decision, then I suggest that legislation is urgently needed to ban other energy development programs (i.e. coal) and the transportation systems which deliver the sources for this energy (i.e. railroads, trucks, etc.) on the basis of a common guiding principle. At a time when our economic livelihood is held hostage by a small group of oil producing nations whose interests may well conflict with our own, is it not prudent, in the interest of national security, to encourage, even to expedite, the most feasible and abundant alternative? At some point, the risk must be measured against the reward.

No one would advocate throwing caution to the wind; but the commission could exercise caution on a case by case basis as opposed to an all out moratorium. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to ensure that the decision to stop issuing permits and operating licenses is reviewed and overturned. In this process, it is important to recognize that initiatives have been and are being taken by the industry in applying the lessons of Three Mile Island, and that the loud voices of those who oppose nuclear power are not the voices of the majority.

Sincerely,

*Payton C. Mayo*  
P. C. Mayo  
Vice President - Engineering

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