



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

NRC/POR

JAN 8 1980

Mr. Gary Borders
Rt. #1
Grover, NC 28073

Dear Gary:

I am writing in response to your letter regarding nuclear energy and Three Mile Island. I regret that this answer to your letter is too late for you to use in your school work. The accident and its consequences have created a substantial increase in the agency's workload, which has prevented me from responding to you as promptly as I would have liked to.

The principal obligation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is to see that public health and safety is preserved by the nuclear power industry. The Commission has the power to regulate the industry by granting construction and operating licenses. It can also order plants to shut down if they do not meet safety standards. Enclosed is a summary of a report, NUREG-0600, which may be of interest to you, plus a description of the Commission and its functions.

The former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) had a Congressional Mandate to develop and promote nuclear energy. When the AEC was abolished in 1974, the NRC was created by Congress for the sole purpose of regulating the commercial production of nuclear energy. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is now responsible for the Federal Government's nuclear research and development activities. Consequently, questions about the future of this energy source should be directed to that agency.

I am pleased to provide you with this information and hope that it can be useful to you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harold R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Summary of NUREG-0600
2. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission Information

8002-20648