

POOR ORIGINAL

JAN 25 1980

Ms. Margaret E. Patchin  
3261 Victory Lane  
Soquel, California 95073

Dear Ms. Patchin:

This is in reply to your letter of November 28, 1979, to President Carter about a moratorium on certain nuclear power plants. Your letter was forwarded to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by the Department of Energy on January 16.

A statement by President Carter on December 7, 1979, about the Report of the President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island (the Kemeny Commission) included the following:

"Finally, I would like to discuss how we manage the transition period during which the Kemeny recommendations are being implemented. There are a number of new nuclear plants now awaiting operating licenses or construction permits."

"Licensing decisions rest with the NRC and, as the Kemeny Commission noted, it has the authority to proceed with licensing these plants on a case-by-case basis, which may be used as circumstances surrounding a plant dictate. The NRC has indicated, however, that it will pause in issuing new licenses and construction permits in order to devote its full attention to putting its house in order. I endorse the approach the NRC has adopted, but I urge the NRC to complete its work as quickly as possible, and in any event no later than six months from today."

"Once we have instituted the necessary reforms to assure safety, we must resume the licensing process promptly so that the new plants which we need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil can be built and operated."

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.

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Ms. Margaret E. Patchin

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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.

With regard to operating nuclear power plants, actions have already been taken that are fully compatible with most of the applicable technical recommendations of the President's Commission. Plants of design similar to the units at Three Mile Island were shut down until modifications were made. Unit 1 at Three Mile Island will remain shut down until further order of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission after a public hearing. Unit 2, where the accident occurred, won't be operable for a long time to come.

We assure you that every effort is being made to protect the public health and safety at all nuclear power plants that are currently in operation or that may go into operation in the future.

Sincerely,

*Handwritten signature*

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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		COMPL DEADLINE	<b>2/8/80</b>	<b>08223</b>
		ACKNOWLEDGMENT		DATE OF DOCUMENT
		INTERIM REPLY		<b>11/28/79</b>
TO: <b>The President (referred to NRC 1/16/80)</b>		FINAL REPLY <i>b/Denton</i>		PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:
		FILE LOCATION <i>1/25/80</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN
				<input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
				OTHER: <b>Denton</b>
DESCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS		
Suggests a moratorium on all new nuclear power plants similar to TMI until the President's Commission has concluded its findings		✓		
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<i>June</i>				<input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRES BR
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				COMMENTS, NOTIFY:
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				JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

NRC FORM 232  
(11-79)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

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Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20545

JAN 16 1980

Ms. Margaret E. Patchin  
3261 Victory Lane  
Soquel, California 95073

Dear Ms. Patchin:

Your letter supporting a moratorium on nuclear plant construction has been forwarded to this office for consideration.

Inasmuch as matters pertaining to the licensing, construction, and operation of commercial nuclear power plants are under the cognizance of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, we are forwarding your letter to them for appropriate action by copy of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P. Thereault".

John P. Thereault, Deputy Director  
Plans and Analysis Division  
Nuclear Reactor Programs

cc: Lee Gossick

POOR ORIGINAL

DOE

3261 Victory Lane  
Sequel, Calif.  
95073

Nov 28, 1979

President Carter  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear President Carter.

I believe we should  
have a moratorium on new plant and  
some plants eq. those similar to the  
3 Mile Island plant until the nuclear  
commission that you formed concludes  
its findings.

Sincerely yours,  
Margaret E. Fatchin