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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 26, 1979

MICHAEL STERN, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

Recently, I received a letter informing me of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's intention to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement on the decontamination and disposal of radioactive wastes resulting from the accident at Three Mile Island. I want to emphasize my concern about any option which would entail the release of radioactive materials into the environment.

I am particularly concerned about the possibility of planned releases of radioactive Krypton gas into the atmosphere and the dumping of radioactive water that is being processed by the Epicor-II system into the Susquehanna River. Although it is argued that the amount of radiation that will be released will be within the guidelines established by the Environmental Protection Agency to protect public health and safety, I am opposed to these methods of decontamination and disposal of those wastes created by the accident. The people in the Middletown area have been subjected to tremendous trauma and uncertainty due to the accident, and they should not be subjected to any more.

This summer, I wrote you concerning the need to hold public hearings in the Middletown area to deal with the problem of disposing of those wastes. I want to again urge you to hold these hearings so the people in the area have the maximum opportunity to comment on the proposed options before a final decision is made.

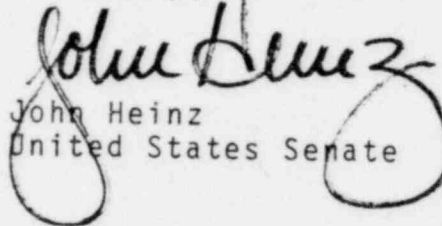
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In closing, I would like to reaffirm that I believe alternatives to both the release of Krypton gas and the dumping of the processed water that do not threaten the safety or the health of the public can and must be developed.

Sincerely,

  
John Heinz  
United States Senate

JH/fdd