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Mr. H. K. Hebeler, President
Boeing Engineering and Construction
P. O. Box 3707
Seattle, Washington 98124

Dear Mr. Hebeler:

This is in reply to your letter of December 14, 1979, about licensing 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. It will include new or improved safety objectives, detailed criteria for their implementation, and various implementation deadlines. As soon as the Action Plan is completed and approved, the resulting requirements will be transmitted to all utilities concerned.

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,

(Signature)
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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