

# BOEING ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

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A Division of The Boeing Company

December 14, 1979

Harold Denton  
Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

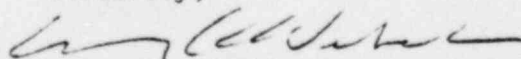
I am writing to urge that you give your personal support to the rapid resumption of licensing nuclear power stations. In light of today's energy situation, I believe it is imperative that we get on with the business of developing all of our energy-producing resources and overcoming our need to rely on other countries. This will take some courageous decisions in light of the considerable emotionalism connected with the anti-nuclear movement today.

Unfortunately, we do not have a lot of options in the short term. Those we do have should be exercised. For instance, according to a recent industry study, there are seven large nuclear power plants representing 7,300 megawatts of capacity that could be ready to operate by next June (but probably won't be because of the licensing freeze). These plants would replace coal and oil in most cases. (If the total capacity displaced oil, the resultant saving would be more than 200,000 barrels per day, the equivalent of roughly two-thirds of what we were importing directly from Iran before the latest crisis.) Six of the seven utilities, responding to a survey, indicated that their actual combined savings in oil consumption will run close to 100,000 barrels per day.

In the longer term, the freeze on construction permits may affect as many as nine nuclear plants during 1980, and the results of this moratorium will be felt in the second half of the decade when those plants would go on line. It is difficult for me to believe that the start of construction of those plants must be held up at all awaiting lessons learned from Three Mile Island. Any such lessons should be applied as changes during the six years or more of construction. We can't afford to wait.

If we remove the mystique and emotionalism that surround nuclear power, we can't help but conclude that it is a proven asset on our energy balance sheet. It is proven through more than 1000 reactor years of operation, world-wide safe operation. Some areas of the country are virtually dependent on nuclear power for electricity. Granted, there are things to be done, as the Kemeny Commission has pointed out and as the industry has already agreed to undertake. But there is a more important thing to be done, and that is to get on with the job of becoming independent. Recent political and economic events tell a very powerful story about the implications of being dependent on other nations, particularly the unstable ones. When we reach the latter part of this decade, I hope that we will be able to look back with admiration to the decision-makers of today who helped the country begin correcting that situation. And I hope that you will be one of those so counted.

Sincerely,



H. K. Hebler  
President

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