

Mrs. Lowell W. Raymond
2181 Ambleside Road, Apt. 402
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

January 15, 1980

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

The enclosed clipping from the Cleveland Plain Dealer of January 10 is the impetus for this letter

Nuclear energy is still a much debated and very unclear subject today. My opinion in regard to it has been most uncertain though just recently two reports ~~have~~ convinced me that the need for now is to go ahead with the licensing you are presently considering.

One is the lecture we at Judson Park Retirement institution heard last week given by Dean Jack Soules, Professor of Physics at Cleveland State University. His conclusion after much study is that we must proceed with nuclear energy and that it is no more dangerous than many other industries today. The Three Mile Island situation was "blown up" out of all proportion, as you know, and no very real disaster occurred. The matter of waste disposal which concerns us all, he states, has been successfully handled by three plants in Germany, France and I think, England. They bury the "rods" in water until they are practically decontaminated and then transfer them to salt mines where they are buried deep. He implies we could do the same and have adequate deep salt mines in the northern half of our country. When I asked him later why we don't know about this, he insists it is in some scientific magazines but politics acts to prevent its exploration in the United States.

The second idea to persuade me to change my mind is a report given to me by my daughter when I visited her family at Christmas in Chicago. Her husband is a partner in one of many plants now building nuclear plants. She states their insurance company returned their premiums recently because, they said, the company had not had even one accident in the past five years.

Maybe checking on such insurance companies would give you some information you might need when you make the decision on a "go-ahead" with nuclear plants. I hope you do not long delay your decision. We may be completely lacking in foreign oil in the future, you know.

I just wanted to give you one opinion contrary to the many adverse ones you hear. Yours very truly,

(Mrs. W. Raymond)

Lowell W. Raymond

Nuclear industry plea

Lobbying group asks NRC to resume licensing plants

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nuclear industry, criticizing the government as engaging in "a series of endless" studies, pleaded yesterday for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to resume licensing atomic power plants.

"The industry simply does not see safety reasons for holding up the issuance of new (plant) operating licenses," said Roger Sherman, board chairman of the Atomic Industrial Forum.

The forum, an industry lobbying group with more than 600 corporate members, had asked to appear before the commission.

But the NRC commissioners gave no sign they would lift their informal moratorium on consideration of new plant licenses. No such licenses have been reviewed since last May because

of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident March 28.

"We aren't going to automatically flip the switch because of your presentation," NRC Chairman John Ahearne told the industry executives at the conclusion of their arguments.

Sherman, who is chairman of Ebasco Services, Inc., a builder of nuclear plants, said "fundamental safety fixes from TMI (Three Mile Island) are either accomplished already or well along" and new plants should be allowed to go into operation.

The industry argued that four nuclear reactors in Virginia, New Jersey, California and Tennessee are ready for licenses.

Frank Staszek, president of Boston Edison, argued that each month of delay in licensing costs up to \$15 million per reactor unit "with no improvement in safety."

The NRC said last November it would consider no new licenses until major safety matters arising from the Three Mile Island accident are resolved.

Harold Denton, head of the agency's division on reactor regulation, said li-

censes probably would not be considered until spring because of the safety issues and the fact that most NRC staff

members who consider licenses have been diverted to the Three Mile Island case and its ramifications.

Emergency aid for the deaf

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