

P

APR 21 1980

Mr. James M. Vetta
2 Burning Tree Road
Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008

Dear Mr. Vetta:

This is in reply to your letter of February 27, 1980, to President Carter about licensing nuclear power plants.

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.

OFFICE ▶						
SURNAME ▶						
DATE ▶						

APR 21 1980

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 regulatory 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. With this objective, the Commissioners approved on February 28, 1980, the issuance of an NRC license to the Tennessee Valley Authority for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant Unit 1 to load fuel and, under specified conditions, to operate at low power levels for testing. Several other similar cases are under consideration.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

DISTRIBUTION:
Docket Nos. 50-320; 50-327
NRC PDR
LPDR
HRDenton
EGCase
PFine
MASB R/F

OFFICE	NRR:MASB	NRR:DD	NRR:D		
SURNAME	PFine:bn	EGCase	HRDenton.		
DATE	4/18/80	4/18/80	4/18/80		

NRC

February 27, 1980

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

Dear President Carter:

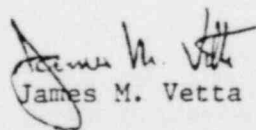
I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and would like to respectfully express my feelings concerning the recent action taken by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of stopping the issuance of construction permits and operating licenses for nuclear power plants. From a utility standpoint, this action will cause high interest payments on the part of not only the utilities who are holding permits on nuclear plants, but those utilities who sometimes purchase power from those utilities whose plants have been put on hold. This will eventually affect, directly or indirectly, the nation as a whole -- all energy users whether nuclear or otherwise.

I understand there are several nuclear power plants waiting for operating licenses. I further understand a typical reactor displaces some 10 million barrels of oil a year. Wouldn't this provide the needed oil we will be lacking during the winter months ahead, as well as help compensate for the loss of Iranian oil?

Comparatively speaking, nuclear power, as opposed to other sources of energy, is economically beneficial, safe for public health and can be made readily available. This is not to say that other sources of energy should be discounted, but nuclear power should definitely be one of our first choices.

Mr. President, I respectfully ask that some consideration be made toward reinstating operations in our nuclear power plants as soon as possible. I, for one, am not a supporter of Jane Fonda. Thank you for your valuable time and consideration.

Very truly yours,


James M. Vetta

t

cc: The Honorable Charles H. Percy
The Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
The Honorable Philip M. Crane

2 Burning Tree Road
Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008