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NRC PDR
50-320UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 25 1980

Miss Jesse Frankenfield
1428 Northampton Street
Easton, Pennsylvania 18042THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
POOR QUALITY PAGES

Dear Miss Frankenfield:

Thank you for your letter of July 26, 1979, to the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the use of nuclear plants to keep electric bills from skyrocketing. I am sorry for the long delay in responding, but we have been very busy with the aftermath of the Three Mile Island accident.

Specifically with regard to your reference to the Metropolitan Edison Company, both Units 1 and 2 of that utility's nuclear power station at Three Mile Island are shut down. Unit 2, where the accident occurred, is not operable and won't be for a long time to come. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission in its Order of July 2, 1979, directed that Unit 1 remain shut down until further order of the Commission itself after a public hearing to resolve safety concerns. Preparations are being made for that hearing, but a starting date has not yet been scheduled.

Most of the nuclear power plants with operating licenses are generating electricity. Every effort is being made to avoid unnecessary delays in considering operating licenses for those plants now in the final stages of construction.

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 regulatory requirements will be transmitted to all utilities concerned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harold R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation