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Nancy D. Wenger
522 Antoine Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17102
June 13, Wednesday

Dear Sirs and Madames;

This is an open letter to all of you who are governing this country. I am a concerned taxpayer and voting citizen, and I feel I am quite justified in expressing my anger over the irresponsible handling (or mishandling) of decisions that are adversely affecting the citizens of this nation. I as one of these citizens feel cheated and deceived, and I will explain why as this letter continues.

For three years I lived near the Three Mile Island plant, believing that the government would keep me informed if there were any dangers with nuclear energy. On March 20th, I learned that I should never believe what I am told by government officials or businessmen. Unfortunately, I found out that even the officials I believed in and voted for are in on this game of putting profits before people. Still, on March 20th, I heard a great deal of assurance speeches.....in the wake of the most serious nuclear accident our country has seen.

We were told in Harrisburg that the government does not take chances with the lives of its citizens, and yet many of us found out (not from any government officials) that a little trick called the Price-Anderson Act protects TMI or any other nuclear power plant from taking responsibility for damages they may (and have already) inflict upon citizens. I must have insurance to drive my car or I will be arrested. I accept this responsibility because I am a safe driver and do not wish to inflict any pain on others without accepting responsibility for it. Apparently nuclear power plants cannot say the same thing.....and yet they claim to be "safe". I voted sore of you in....and I feel strongly that all of you in official positions have a responsibility foremost to us your citizens. I ask that you irradietely take steps to see to it that the Price-Anderson Act be declared unconstitutional, and repealed (retroactively). I also ask that you see to it that a law like that, which favors big business over people never be permitted to pass again.

Around the time of the TMI accident, we all had to make a decision based upon the conflicting reports we had heard, to stay or leave. I and my family left immediately, risking our job security, and the security of our home. Now we have returned, still not knowing how much radiation is leaking, where the radioactive water will be dumped, and what the future effect upon our health will be. I have not drunk milk since March 20th. I am afraid to plant a garden for fear that radiation may come through in the vegetables. I fear for the lives of my friends, many of whom live or attend college within a few miles of that plant. I fear for the lives of children I have taught in school in Steelton.....also a few miles from the plant. I fear for the radiation they may have received on Wednesday, March 20th, when in the midst of the largest radiation leaks, schools were dismissed in the area, sending young children out to walk home, wait for busses, and play outside until their parents came home from work.

We are told, matter of factly that nuclear wastes don't break down as fast as most materials. Then volunteers against nuclear energy and former nuclear engineers who have seen the light tell us that in fact, they don't break down for thousands of years, and continue to poison future generations. We hear of St. George, Utah, and the Love Canal, and already we see what these wastes are doing to people. And yet you continue to authorize these new plants, and give others the okay for beginning operation.

You say you have safe places to bury this waste. It is buried in lead containers? How fast do these lead containers break down? Eight or nine years? That leaves at least 900 years of nuclear poisonings. Also, as you are finding "safe" places to bury these wastes, more wastes are accumulating. If the safe places we are using now include earthquake faults, what kinds of places will we be using in fifteen years? Elementary school playgrounds, or hospital recovery rooms? The more waste you bury, the more dangers are caused, thus filling our hospitals, and creating more disabled persons. Is this helping our country?

Nuclear power is the only economically feasible way to create electricity you tell me. Economics mean nothing to me when I may be dying within 10 years. I am only 25 years old and I want to live and have children. It seems to me that there must be some way to generate electricity without killing people. Derwick Power plant on the Susquehanna will be opening soon unless people like myself can stop it. The customers in that area have been told that their rates will go up 10% when Unit I opens and 10% when Unit II opens. A 20% raise in rates is not what I call an economically advantageous energy source.

Economically feasible you say.....for whom? For the citizens of Harrisburg? Of course not. We have just begun the route back to improvement after a major flood in 1972. What will TMI do to this town? I know who benefits from nuclear energy and it is not the taxpayer. It is a slum-lord mentality. The utility companies are protected by the government as they not only rape this land and kill the people and animals who inhabit it, but make money doing so. But let's let the citizens of Middletown and Harrisburg pay for the crippled TMI plant.

Haven't we paid enough?

I am a special education teacher, and I have worked with and taught many children with genetic disorders. It is a sad and frustrating thing to see. Have you ever spent any time with an anencephali or microcephali child? They have very minimal brain tissue. They do not speak or walk. They lie prone and are totally dependent upon others for their care. This is a terrible heartache for the parents, and the heartache lasts a lifetime. Is it worth the profits to create this kind of future generation? My husband and I both have graduate degrees, we are from families of ministers, poets, artists and doctors. He would love very much to raise a child in a loving and stimulating environment. Will we have a nuclear baby? I have learned from people who worked for the nuclear industry that anencephali and microcephali are the main disorders caused by radiation. I sincerely hope you will research these disorders and decide if you think the risk is worth it.

I am not an expert on radiation, nor am I an expert on energy or economics. There are many people who do know a great deal about these fields and it is my hope that somehow I will be able to make myself heard to those people so that they know the human side of the story and do not go off "half-cocked" with an energy or economics plan that can destroy the people who are the core of this and any nation.

My field of expertise is teaching. I try to build future generations. My job is hard and I do my best to do it well. At times I am extremely frustrated that the work I am doing for future generations can all be destroyed by greedy officials who can not see beyond their pocketbooks. It is my hope that somehow I will be able to instill in the children I teach a sense of responsibility and moral honesty so that if they survive long enough to help run this country someday, they will run it with a sense of what is good for humanity, and therefore good for the country. However, in the midst of my working I feel a sense of despair when I think that these children, who you may call "guinea pigs", or "statistics" may die of leukemia before they reach the ripe old age of 20.

I shall try to be optimistic at this point, although it is difficult. Perhaps we can turn this around. Many former workers in the nuclear field have looked honestly at the documents regarding damages done by nuclear energy and they have taken a moral stance, and have admitted they were wrong to ever support such a monstrosity. They have endeared themselves to citizens like myself in doing this. Although their mistakes are serious ones, they have turned and made very heroic attempts to stop this before it destroys more of this world. They have stopped playing the game of power and politics, and instead chosen morality and truth. Will you please do the same before it is too late?

Legislate that no utility shall ever again have the license to kill that has been given to them by the Price-Anderson Act.

Start a campaign for energy conservation, including cutbacks on useless electrical devices, and providing economic benefits for those who use less electricity.

Stress that the federal and state governments put more money into the research and use of solar power.

Stop the construction of all new nuclear energy plants. Close down all plants that have a history of accidents and/or safety violations.

Demand that the utility companies, and not the taxpayers be responsible for the damage they have done. Provide no governmental monies for the massive expenses of this accident. Perhaps the utility companies will voluntarily turn away from nuclear energy, because it is too expensive.

Open up the top-secret files and educate the citizens about the dangers that are lurking in their back yards. Take an honest look at these documents. Is nuclear energy really safe? Fine...then show us the documents as proof. If it is not safe...take an honest look at these documents yourself and carefully consider what your stance is- make your decision and live with it.

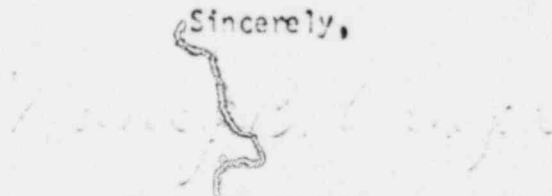
I am asking you to give the citizens fair and honest answers. We are not peasants of Medieval Europe who wouldn't understand or don't deserve to know. We are stockholders in this government called a democracy. From what I have learned in the many years of American history, we are to have a say. Either the history books were lying, and we actually live in a Totalitarian society, or the history of this country has been a story of men and women building a country where people can have a say.....only to have the present day government destroying that.

If you all can't make a personal response to myself and other people of this country, make it a point to respond to these issues in your next batch of campaign issues. And please spare us the public relations bullshit. Read my letter again and respond to the feelings behind the words. I need answers, and I need honest ones. Many other citizens in this country are asking for the same things.

Are you a moral person? Do you try to raise your children morally, and with a sense of doing what is best? Then look carefully at yourself and what you stand for. Make your decisions in government reflect you and your beliefs. Say no to corruption and big business control. Perhaps there is so much corruption that one congressman or congresswoman can't make a difference. That is why I am sending this letter to so many of you. You are the only ones who can make a difference. We are trying, but honestly don't know if you are listening to us.

Are you listening?

Sincerely,



Nancy B. Wenger