

Department of Energy Washington, D.C. 20585

JAN 25 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

FROM:

Christina L. Rathkopf Executive Secretary

SUBJECT:

Correspondence Referral

The attached correspondence has been misdirected to this Department for reply. Inasmuch as it appears to fall within the purview of your agency, we are referring this communication herewith for your reply. We have informed the writer of this action.

Thank you for your attention.

Mr. P. B. Haga 4618 Wadham Lane Jacksonville, Florida 32210

NRO

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

55 1 175

MEMORANDUM:

The attached letter(s) addressed to the President is referred to your office for suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling at the earliest opportunity. Should you receive mail that has been misdirected, please forward to the appropriate agency. I would also appreciate knowing when you are forwarding such mail. My phone number is 456-2717.

Thank you.

Mary Martha Seal

Director

Correspondence Agency Lisison

DOE DOE

Fallen Land France

4638 Wadham Lane Jacksonville, FL 32210 November 27, 1979

The Honorable Jimmy Carter
The President of the United States .
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recently imposed a freeze on the granting of construction permits and operating licenses for nuclear power plants. This freeze was apparently based on the NRC Commissioners' perception of the Kemeny Commission report and probably on their perception of the mood of certain minority activist groups in the United States.

The Kereny Cormission report did not find significant shortcomings in plant design and equipment; it found that more attention should be given to the careful operation of nuclear plants. The nuclear industry during the past seven months has made enormous progress toward improving the safety and reliability of plant operation. The NRC Commissioners' action takes no cognizance of this progress. Nuclear plants currently awaiting either an operating license or a construction permit have had the full benefit of the lessons learned from Three Mile Island.

Events in the OPEC nations, especially Iran, have highlighted the importance of accelerating the construction and operation of nuclear power plants. France acted in a most responsible way subsequent to the oil embargo and huge price increase in 1973-1974 and again in 1978-1979 by significantly expanding its program of nuclear plant construction. This country should send the same signals to OPEC. Let me remind you that the four nuclear plants already completed but prevented from operation by the NRC's moratorium would at full load completely compensate for the oil we previously imported from Iran.

I know that you are currently evaluating the recommendations of the Kemeny Commission. I urge you to act in a positive way to reduce red tape blocking the further licensing of nuclear plants and to add nuclear energy to the list of energy sources that will receive priority licensing. This dountry needs a strong nuclear power program to show the rest of the world that we mean business in fighting inflation and strengthening the dollar against other currencies.

Very truly yours.

J. S. 240