



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

APR 11 1980

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
POOR QUALITY PAGES

Mr. Howard C. Cook
625 N. Monroe Street
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Dear Mr. Cook:

This is in reply to your letter of January 31, 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."

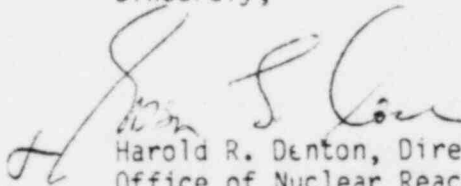
The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is committed to protect the public health and safety. The Three Mile Island accident resulted in a need for changes in the approach to safety. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has found that actions recommended by its own staff and by the President's Commission on the 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.

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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,



Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Howard C. Cook
625 N. Monroe Street
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Jan 31, 1980

72 NR
The President
Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C.

7 June

Dear Mr. President:

The study of the Energy Situation released by the National Academy of Sciences on Jan 14, 1980 included findings & recommendations on conservation, syn-fuels, coal, nuclear energy, oil & gas, solar and geothermal energy. It was a four year study considering the opinions and recommendations of 300 scientists. The nuclear energy recommendation stated that although it had risks, atomic power is cheaper and safer than coal for making electricity. The U.S. should continue to develop a fast-breeder reactor as a safeguard against uranium shortages in the next century.

This phase of the energy program (development of nuclear energy) appears to be the one that has the least positive support (over)

and action. Now the N.R.C. has issued a freeze on licensing new reactors. The Atomic Industrial Forum states that seven nuclear power reactors with 7300 megawatt capacity could be operational by June if licensed. I believe that development of a breeder reactor is practically at a standstill. It appears that in the atomic energy program, more attention is given to the opinions of amateur environmentalists and consumer advocates, than to studies such as the above and to the opinion of scientists. I realize that there are differences in scientific opinion, but from all information I have seen feel that the development of atomic power is necessary to meet energy needs. There are cases frequently cited where injunctions, lawsuits and appeals by environmentalists + consumer advocates have delayed projects repeatedly - doubling or tripling costs with no improvement in the project and no penalty to themselves. I hope that this situation can be remedied. Sincerely
Howard O. Cook