



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

APR 11 1980

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Mr. Frances Wery and Mrs. Genevieve Wery
3217 W. Saginaw
Lansing, Michigan 48917

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wery:

This is in reply to your letter of February 1, 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.

Mr. and Mrs. Wery

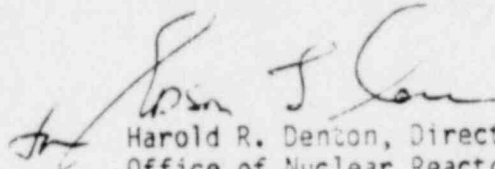
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At this time we are preparing for review and approval by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission an Action Plan that will specify the precise actions to be taken. It will include new or improved safety objectives, detailed criteria for their implementation, 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

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NRC

3217 W. Saginaw
Lansing, Michigan 48917
February 1, 1980

True

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

Dear President Carter:

We are greatly concerned with the future of nuclear energy in this country, at a time when we are still dependent upon imported oil for energy, which is adding millions of dollars to our balance of payments deficit. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has decided to freeze the issuing of licenses for seven new nuclear reactors. The freeze contributes to energy inflation by forcing the use of coal and oil fired plants, while the nuclear plants remain idle. Of course, consumers must pay for these additional costs -- anywhere from \$88 million to \$102 million more each month -- and makes us increasingly dependent on the OPEC countries. Each new reactor can do the work of 30,000 barrels of oil per day.

We are just as concerned as anyone else that nuclear power production be safe. We believe Carl Walske, President of the Atomic Industrial Forum, when he says the seven nuclear plants affected by the NRC freeze "are every bit as safe as the ones the NRC is permitting to run."

We strongly support nuclear power and want the NRC to resume the licensing of nuclear plants in the United States. It is the best and cheapest source of energy.

Respectfully yours,

Francis and Genevieve Wery

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