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

APR 21 1980

Mr. Carl L. Ohlman
1840 Mayfair Drive, N. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Dear Mr. Ohlman:

This is in reply to your letter of February 20, 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.

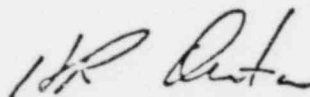
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At this time we are preparing for review and approval by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission an Action Plan that will specify the precise actions to be taken. It will include new or improved safety objectives, detailed criteria for their implementation,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

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NRC
POOR ORIGINAL

February 20, 1980

The President of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am attaching herewith a copy of a letter addressed to the Grand Rapids Press, Grand Rapids, Michigan (attention of the Public Pulse) for publication.

w/...
If you agree with the article, I would appreciate it if you would take action to register your support in the resuming of the licensing of Nuclear Plants so that America will not be left in the dark.

Thanking you, I am

Carl L. Ohlman
Carl L. Ohlman

POOR ORIGINAL

ITALIAN SITUATION REALIZES THE NEED
FOR NUCLEAR POWER.

In fact, four Utility Companies (since 1975), after five years of effort to obtain a permit for a NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, have been denied. They feel that an appeal is an exercise in futility and expense and that the revoking of the permit is a grave error and will result in higher electric energy costs and eventual shortage. These problems are causing many of our Utility Companies that have Nuclear Plants on the drawing board, or in the process of building them, are cancelling their programs.

In conclusion, I feel that the generating of NUCLEAR POWER, up to the time of the Three Mile incident, has had an enviable proven record in saving many millions of dollars in generating electricity with no adverse affects and no serious accidents.

We should recognize the great benefits of NUCLEAR POWER to human health and well being and the survival of our free society before it is too late.

Carl Chlman

POOR ORIGINAL

1120 Grand Rapids Press
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49503
February 15, 1980

IRANIAN SITUATION EMPHASIZES THE
NEED FOR NUCLEAR POWER

Editor: The Grand Rapids Press
Press Plaza
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

Attn: Public Pulse

In connection with the above, I would like to state my views regarding Nuclear Power. The Anti-Nuclear Bloc sends Washington a considerable amount of mail while the proponents send very little. Friends of Nuclear Power must start delivering their message before it is too late.

The greatest present day threat to the prosperity and even the survival of nations is the lack of energy. Both developed and undeveloping nations are threatened. Nuclear Power is part of the answer to that problem. Only a part, but a very important part.

We must not turn our back on any source of energy when our very existence is at stake. We need them all, especially NUCLEAR POWER. The Anti-Nuclear propaganda that we are hearing today puts democracy to a severe test. Unless the political trend toward Energy Development in this country, changes rapidly, there may not be a United States in the 21st century.

The Three Mile Island incident was unfortunate, but due to the lesson learned, it will add extreme knowledge to our technology and help to refine the safety system and make the Nuclear way of generating electricity even safer. Nuclear Power potential is too great to ignore. It will play an essential role over the next 30 years in meeting our nation's needs and help generate the progress that makes it possible for all nations to grow and prosper. If we are to avoid war, we must be strong.

At present we have 7 Nuclear Plants that are affected by the NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) freezing the issuing of new reactor licenses. These 7 Nuclear Plants are ready to operate and each month these reactors remain idle the nation will use more than 200,000 additional barrels daily or about 2/3 of the oil we imported from Iran before the latest crisis - and the additional cost to the customers is 88 to 100 million dollars more because replacement power will be generated by higher costs -(coal and oil fired plants). This freeze can make us increasingly dependent on imported oil when the nation seeks release from OPEC's strangle hold. The NRC Freeze reflects a wave of emotionalism that must not be allowed to throttle a vital source of energy.

It now requires a NUCLEAR POWER PLANT 10 to 12 years to plan and build before it becomes a commercial reality. As incredible as it may seem, about half of that time is spent filling out forms, shuffling papers and waiting for one Regulatory Agency or another to schedule a hearing or approve a permit, adding considerably to the cost of every Nuclear Plant. In Europe and Japan, they are constructing Nuclear Power Plants in 5 to 6 years where safety standards must also be met.