



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

June 25, 1980

The Honorable Gary Hart, Chairman
Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I understand that at its markup of S. 2358 the Committee deferred action of the NRC's request for \$8.4 million to fund the Casework Personnel Loan Assistance Program and additional TMI-related work identified in my testimony before the Subcommittee but not included in our budget submittal.

At the risk of overstating our case, I would like to reaffirm our belief in the need for these funds. We estimate a shortfall of approximately 50 professional staff-years in NRR for casework review in FY 1981. Seven million dollars of the additional \$8.4 million would continue the Casework Personnel Loan Assistance Program in FY 1981. Without this program the staff estimates that reviews scheduled for completion in FY 1982 and 1983 could be delayed by as much as 12 to 15 months. In FY 1982 alone, this regulatory licensing delay has the potential for delaying startups by 60 months or more. The cost to utilities and consumers of such a delay could approach \$1 billion.

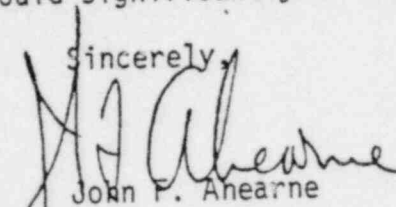
The remaining \$1.4 million would provide additional funding for implementation of the TMI Action Plan. We estimate that the Plan will require the redirection of over 100 staff-years of effort and cost approximately \$5.1 million for technical assistance in FY 1981. The TMI-related tasks include control room design reviews, analysis of safety parameter display consoles, siting policy reformulation, risk reduction for reactors at high population density sites, rulemaking on degraded-core accidents, maintaining safety at TMI-2 and upgrade of licensee emergency support facilities. Of the \$5.1 million total required in FY 1981, only \$3.7 million was included in our original FY 1981 budget submittal. This would be increased by our \$1.4 million request.

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The Commission believes that the funds requested in its FY 1981 budget submission, including the \$8.4 million, will be sufficient to meet its minimum needs for FY 1981 and does not intend to make a further request during the fiscal year for supplemental funds. The budget, as requested, has been rigorously reviewed by the Commission and is already extremely tight. Should the \$8.4 million not be granted, we do not foresee the possibility of redirecting funds within the budget to meet these expenses. Under the circumstances, we strongly recommend that the Senate not consider of these additional, much needed resources.

The Commission is currently reviewing the probable impact of actions taken by the Committee in amending S. 2358. In the near future, I expect to be able to provide you with additional comments regarding specific provisions which would significantly affect NRC operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John F. Ahearne".

John F. Ahearne

cc: The Honorable Alan K. Simpson
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici