



Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585

May 2, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

FROM:

*John H. Weiner*  
John H. Weiner  
Deputy 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.

Ms. Deanne L. Berry  
22184 Via Camino Court  
Cupertino, California 95014

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R.D. 3/19

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March 4, 1980  
22184 Via Camino Ct.  
Cupertino, CA 95014

Charles Duncan  
Department of Energy  
Independence Ave. & 10th St. SW  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Duncan:

I understand that our nation needs to develop more sources of energy, but I have serious doubts about the safety of nuclear power. In order to gain a better perspective on this subject, I would appreciate your help in providing me with the answers to the following questions.

1. What was done with the radioactive water that resulted from the Three Mile Island accident, and what steps have been taken in dealing with the possibility of absorption of radioactivity into the ground?

2. I understand that the valve that failed at the Florida reactor in late February, 1980, was built by Babcock & Wilcox, who had also built the faulty valve at Three Mile Island. Other reputable firms had refused to build this part and had then commented that Babcock & Wilcox's valve was inefficient. Why was this valve ever used, and why was the Three Mile Island investigation not thorough enough to develop safeguards to prevent Babcock & Wilcox's valves from failing again?

3. From various sources I have heard that the control boards in nuclear power plants are "ambiguous" and "inadequate". It seems to me that this would leave the entire plant and surrounding community too vulnerable to human error. What is being done to improve this situation?

I appreciate your directing me to any information that would be helpful, and I thank you for your assistance in providing answers to my questions.

Sincerely yours,

*Deanne L. Berry*  
Deanne L. Berry