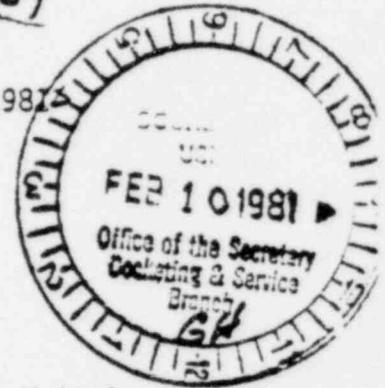


February 4, 1981

James F. Ahearna
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20555



Re: Docket 50-289Sp, TMI-Unit 1

Dear Mr. Ahearna:

I support the use and development of nuclear power; I also realize that that is all I need to say, but I can't resist adding my reasons in hopes they will convince someone else.

If fission power is eliminated or outlawed now it will be next to impossible for fusion power to be put to use when it is finally developed. At this point my arguments begin to sound rather romantic and fanciful, but the commonplace arguments have had plenty of exposure in the media and haven't changed anyone's mind.

Fusion power is essentially limitless since hydrogen is the most common element in the universe. Fusion could provide mankind with a chance to give every person, regardless of nationality, a decent standard of living.

All other solutions to our energy problems have limitations:

1. Coal reserves supposedly will last 400 years. Four hundred years is not very long for mankind's descendents. (I've also noticed that those projections keep getting shorter.)
2. All sources of energy except solar power and its wind and water variations will be expended eventually. Solar power is limited too by the surface area of the earth exposed to it. It is questionable that wind and water can provide the necessary amount of energy needed, basically it can supplement.

I don't believe that population control will ever be achieved, because a society that voluntarily limits its growth will eventually be swallowed up in one fashion or another by societies that don't. The exception to this is a society with the technology to artificially augment its effective size or strength and this entails the consumption of as much or more energy than the large population.

All of this means that no one is going to put up with a constant "x" jillion megawatts of power divided evenly among a world population of "y" jillion, least of all Americans.



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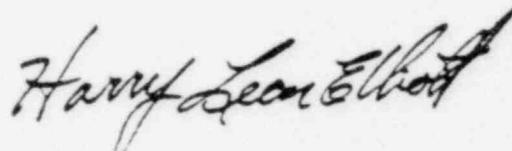
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Finally (and probably most important in terms of mankind's real future), only fusion power will allow mankind to escape this planet. Solar powered spacecraft don't work much beyond the orbit of Mars.

Fusion power will be developed - if not by us then by some other nation. We may end up importing electric power as we now import oil, suffering all the same consequences.

There's no doubt that fusion is dangerous, but so is fire and its obvious now what happened to the tribes of primitive hominids that decided to play it safe and not mess with fire. I hope my descendants survive far beyond the next 400 years

Sincerely,



Harry Leon Elliott

cc: Malcolm Wallop
Senator-Wyoming

Alan Simpson
Senator-Wyoming

Dick Cheney
Representative - Wyoming