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William G. Ott
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Gibsonia, Pennsylvania 15044

December 17, 1980

Mr. John F. Ahearne
Chairman Commissioner
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Ahearne:

As a resident of Western Pennsylvania who has a vital interest in this area and its energy supplies, I would like to know why the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is preventing the start-up of the Three Mile Island Unit No. 1 electric generating station.

According to the operator of the plant, Metropolitan Edison Company, Unit No. 1 is ready to begin producing much needed electric power for Pennsylvania.

I think the return to operation of this large electric generating unit is important to the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The cost of replacement power is adding to the cost of basic electric service for a large part of the state including, parts of Western Pennsylvania.

Higher costing electric power puts Pennsylvania at an economic disadvantage, not only with surrounding states, but with the Sun Belt states who are competing with Pennsylvania for industry and jobs.

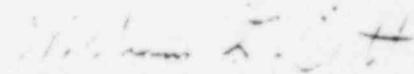
Also, I have heard that much of the replacement power comes from oil-fired generating capacity. This seems to be working directly against the Federal Government policies for reducing our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

I cannot recall any news stories about Unit No. 1 being unsafe. With the expertise at the disposal of the NRC, I believe that you should be able to quickly ascertain whether the plant is safe to operate.

The start-up of TMI Unit No. 1 will have a profound effect on the energy future of Pennsylvania and the whole country. If we are to begin solving our nation's energy problems, we will need a mixture of energy sources including coal, nuclear and solar power.

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I believe that the start-up of TMI Unit No. 1 will be a step in the proper direction toward realizing energy independence for our country, and achieving adequate energy supplies necessary for Pennsylvania to compete with other states for industry and jobs.



William G. Ott