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50-289

January 29, 1981

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Refer: Docket 50-289SP
TMI-Unit 1
Middletown, PA

Attn: James F. Ahearne, Chairman

Dear Mr. Ahearne:

I understand that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has begun hearings to decide whether Three Mile Island-1 should be restarted.

I can not understand why a power source as beneficial to the future of our country as nuclear energy promises to be, is constantly squelched by excessive government regulations. These excessive regulations seem to be brought about by a loud voiced and visibility seeking minority of lobbyists and environmentalists, who constantly fight progress of any kind by exaggerating the risks involved.

Consider the following statistics of agents in our everyday living which pose more of a threat on a constant basis than nuclear power. The source of these statistics is the National Council on Radiation Protection & Measurements (NCRP) Reports #45 & #56, and Interagency Task Force on the Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation, June, 1979.

<u>Some sources of Radiation</u>	<u>Average Millirem* Exposure per year</u>
Natural, In human body	30.
Brick walls, masonry, indoor	3.5
Color TV	0.5
Smoke detector	.002-.05
Nuclear Power	.3

*Millirem = 1/1,000 of a rem, a standard of measurement of Radiation

By comparison, nuclear plants release very little radiation. Even during the accident at Three Mile Island- which nuclear opponents have called the worst nuclear "disaster" in history- the average person living within a fifty-mile radius of the plant was exposed to only 1.5 units of radiation- less than a person receives from living for one year in a house made of brick. A person receives twice as much radiation in one round-trip flight from New York to San Francisco then if he lived next door to a nuclear power plant for one year. The use of diagnostic X-Rays is another common source. Yet you do not hear lobbyists or environmentalists try to ban X-Rays, air travel, or living in brick houses.



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