

5 March 1981

Mr. Ivan W. Smith  
Chairman  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
25 North Court Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Dear Mr. Smith

Since the nuclear accident at Unit 2, Three Mile Island, there has been much controversy concerning the reopening of Unit 1, the undamaged unit.

At the time of the accident, nothing noteworthy was going on in and on this planet earth. The news media swarmed and descended upon Middletown and its environs. Most certainly, there were dangers; however, I strongly felt that the news media blew the incident way out of proportion. Naturally, people became frightened.

When Unit 2 was brought under control and was guided toward a safe, cold shut-down, GPU and Met-Ed developed a very comprehensive program to educate the people in Middletown and its environs concerning what actually happened -- what caused the accident and how Unit 2 was brought under control. They went a step further -- they began giving tours of Three Mile Island, during which time, the accident is explained and the actual function of the Three Mile Island Nuclear facility is also explained in terms that the general public can understand. I took this tour, which I found to be the best tour I have ever taken of any industrial facility, and decided that the residents of this area have, as President Roosevelt so adequately explained during World War II, "Nothing to fear, but fear itself". I'm certain when primitive man made the first wheel, the general public was afraid of it; however, if primitive man would not have used the wheel, we probably would all be living in the stone age.

I enjoy the conveniences of modern day living and I strongly feel that atomic energy must be a part of it. I also feel that GPU and Met-Ed are responsible, and most certainly should be allowed to reopen Unit 1 at Three Mile Island, and also, that they should be given all the Federal assistance necessary to clean-up Unit 2 and place it, again, on line to serve this area. I'm certain that all these people who are protesting and want Three Mile Island closed would be the first to cry out when they turn on their faucets and flush their commodes and nothing happens simply because there would not be enough electricity to run the public utilities necessary to provide these important services.

I am Regent of Swatara Pine Ford Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Middletown, PA. At the 1980 Continental Congress (National Convention) and the 1980 Convention of the Pennsylvania State Society, Daughters of the American

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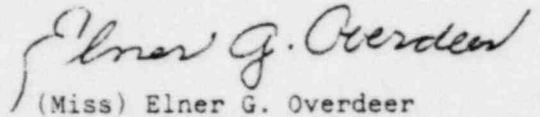
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Revolution, the Delegates voted unanimously in favor of a National Energy Program which includes the maximum use of Atomic Energy.

GPU and Met-Ed have served the Middletown area faithfully for many years. I strongly feel that from the lessons learned at Three Mile Island, the facility at Three Mile Island and its counter-parts all over the world will comprise the safest industrial complex in existence today and in years to come.

In view of the above, I strongly urge you and your Board to unanimously approve the reopening of Unit 1 at Three Mile Island and the clean-up at Unit 2, with its ultimate return to an on-line status. The area badly needs the electricity these units will produce.

Sincerely,



(Miss) Elnor G. Overdeer  
164 North Catherine Street  
Middletown, PA 17057