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forward
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2202 Divisadero
San Francisco
CA 94115
4-5-81

Dear Sirs,

This is a letter to protest the proposed new rules on commissioning new nuclear power plants. There are very clear reasons why these hearings take so long. The public does not like nuclear power and is liking it less every day. They want to be SURE that these plants are safe, practical and will do what they are touted as doing. All the claims made about nuclear power by its advocates are being seen as little more than wishes and dreams by many ordinary people today.

Please note the enclosed recent newspaper clipping. The basement of the TMI reactor building contains some (as I recall) 700,000 gallons of

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2/ radioactive water and the utility company which operates the plant is running out of money to clean up the mess. So what will happen? It seems likely that the public will have to pay - somehow - for the cleanup and that will totally destroy any arguments, at TMI at least, that nuclear power is cheap. Now what do you do with all that contaminated water? No one seems to know. And then what happens to the TMI building? The de-commissioning cost could be almost unbelievably high. The nuclear power industry has yet to either decommission a reactor or yet, after 35 years, to dispose permanently of as much as a single pound of spent fuel.

Come on you guys. Please don't create any more of these monsters when no one knows the way to stop the accumulation of poisons

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3/ Speeding up the licensing process will only create more problems in the future. The NRC was created to serve the public interest. Lets see that service more clearly manifested.

Yours sincerely

Richard Taylor
Oliver Taylor

OAKLAND TRIBUNE

3-31-81

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TMI cleanup in need of money

WASHINGTON — The cleanup of Three Mile Island's crippled nuclear reactor is fast running out of money and no one is willing to pick up the tab, witnesses told a House subcommittee Monday.

"The difficulty is that this cleanup under the best of conditions is going to take four, five, six, seven years," said Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, chairman of the Nuclear Safety Oversight Committee. "The utility is reaching the end of its rope. The money is going to run out."

Thousands of gallons of water remain to be decontaminated and the radioactive core still needs to be disposed of. The total cost of the cleanup effort is now estimated at \$1 billion to \$1.3 billion.