

DOCKET NUMBER 50-289
PROD. & UTIL. FAC.

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December 3, 1980

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

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



Dear Mr. Ahearne:

This morning, like many other mornings, I drove my automobile 9.8 miles to my bus stop, boarded a bus for downtown Pittsburgh and commuted another 22 miles before arriving at my job. I have followed this routine five days a week, 52 weeks a year for four years now. During that period, I have seen numerous auto accidents and an ever-increasing number of tractor-trailer/auto crashes, oftentimes fatal, along the same roads I travel daily. Despite such accidents, automobiles and tractor-trailers have not been banned from the roads, nor have commuters stopped driving their cars or taking buses.

In the 25-plus years of nuclear power plant operation in this country, the only major nuclear plant accident occurred at TMI-Unit 2 last year. No one was injured or killed. Yet, despite nuclear power's overall, impressive safety record, our country has allowed itself to live in the shadow of this one accident while other major countries in this world have surpassed us in utilizing this valuable energy source.

Now, more than ever, we must put our nuclear power plants back to work for us—especially those plants which are ready and safe to operate but are sitting idle. A case in point is TMI-1. TMI-1, for quite some time now, has been ready to return to service. This Unit was not involved or damaged as a result of the accident at TMI-2. However, unlike other power plants in this country that have been allowed to operate while making modifications, TMI-1 has remained shut down. The Metropolitan Edison customers who would be served by this Unit need its operation desperately, not only to meet their energy needs, but to relieve the financial impact they already are experiencing in their utility bills because alternate and more costly power must be bought elsewhere.

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I do not believe that we as Americans are willing to give up the lifestyles which electric energy has made possible or improved over the years. To continue our lifestyles, we need electric energy. To provide electric energy, we need nuclear power, at least until other alternate energy sources can be developed. If this country is to survive as a great power, then it is imperative that we put the entire energy situation and nuclear power into the proper perspective. Let us learn from the past and let us look to the future. Return TMI-1 to service.

Sincerely,

Angela J. Fenwick

AJF/kmd