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



Dear Commissioner Ahreane:

I am writing on behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Branch of the American Nuclear Society.

On October 15, 1980, your Commission began proceedings to consider whether Metropolitan Edison Company shall be permitted to restart Unit One of Three Mile Island. It is our feeling that Unit One should be allowed to restart. Our position is based on several considerations.

First, and most importantly, we feel that Metropolitan Edison Company can safely operate Unit One while continuing cleanup on Unit Two. In a conversation with our student branch president Rick Moyer, Dick Cashwell (who heads the nuclear reactor lab on this campus) voiced the sentiment that the TMI operators are as well trained as any in the country. It should be noted here that Mr. Cashwell served on the committee which reevaluated the TMI operators after the mishap.

Given that safe operation of TMI Unit One can be accomplished, the financial aspects of the situation must be considered. Even though the high cost of purchased replacement power won't be passed directly to the consumer, it is hard to believe that the consumer will get away scot free in the long run. The consumer should not be forced to use expensive replacement power when power can be safely generated by Unit One. The financial position of Metropolitan Edison Company must also be considered. There is no reason to add the additional expense of buying replacement power to Met Ed's already prohibitive cleanup bill.

Finally, it is important to show America that there is nothing inherently faulty with the TMI reactor design. Even though an accident did happen to Unit Two, the notion that Unit One is unsafe (as well as the public extrapolation that all reactors are unsafe) must, and we feel, can be proven to be unfounded.

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For all of these reasons, I urge you and the other members of the Commission to recommend the startup of Unit One of Three Mile Island.

Sincerely,

*David J. Wanner*

David J. Wanner  
Secretary, UW-Madison  
ANS Student Branch