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

50-289

Dear Mr. Ahearne:

Subject: Docket 50-289SP, TMI-Unit 1, Middletown, Pa.

Why is Three Mile Island Unit 1 closed and not permitted to function? It was not damaged in the March 1979 Unit 2 accident. It was working and safe at that time and with the additional Government-imposed safety regulations, is now safer than ever. Why is it standing idly by when it is able and willing to contribute to much needed energy?

Nuclear power is still the cleanest and most economically feasible source of energy in spite of the many unnecessary shut-downs and over regulations, in spite of the Government and News Media, of the Nader and Environmentalists-imposed emotional hysteria as demonstrated at TMI in March 1979.

Rational people in nuclear plant neighborhoods are not opposed to nuclear plants. They welcome the jobs created. They welcome the tax benefits derived by nuclear plant communities. They do not have the school and community financial problems that are prevalent elsewhere.

Healthwise there were no lives lost at TMI, no explosions, no toxic coal smoke, no black lung casualties. They were exposed to less radiation than the average airplane traveler, or the deep-mine worker, or the x-ray or radiation patient, or those exposed to the many natural radiation sources. Colorado has more natural radiation than is found at TMI.

As far as waste is concerned, there are now many safe ways to dispose of that (example Europe). Classification is one way. With recycling and the Breeder Reactor there would be very little waste. With the Breeder Reactor, nuclear fuel can be made to last indefinitely. Remember the NAUTILUS, the submarine that logged 500,000 miles without consuming a drop of oil!

What has happened to the many nuclear plants that were on the drawing boards, or in various stages of completion? Were they all TMI casualties? Casualties of our Nation's short sightedness? Lets get out from under CPEC's domination. I hope you will come to a more realistic evaluation of TMI and realize that keeping the undamaged unit closed is unjustified.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bixel
Mrs. Gordon Bixel



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