



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

AUG 26 1980

The Honorable William S. Broomfield  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Broomfield:

This is in reply to your letter of July 28, 1980, to the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requesting information for use in responding to a letter from your constituent, Mr. Michael C. Haight, about the safety of the Midland and Fermi nuclear plants under construction in Michigan. Those plants, like others under construction, are subject to enhanced safety requirements resulting from the lessons learned in the Three Mile Island accident, even though this means some changes in design and backfitting of equipment.

Nuclear power plants are designed so as to reduce the likelihood of accidents to an acceptably low level. They are equipped with protective systems provided to place and hold the plants in a safe condition if deviations from normal operations occur. In addition, engineered safety features are installed to mitigate the consequences of certain postulated accidents. Furthermore, considerations of safety are involved in evaluating the suitability of proposed sites for nuclear power plants. Finally, there are plans for emergency actions such as sheltering or evacuation of personnel if necessary.

In the case of the Three Mile Island accident, the independent Kemeny Commission appointed by the President to investigate the accident stated:

"Just how serious was the accident? Based on our investigation of the health effects of the accident, we conclude that in spite of serious damage to the plant, most of the radiation was contained and the actual release will have negligible effect on the physical health of individuals. The major health effect of the accident was found to be mental stress."

A report of January 1980 on Three Mile Island by a Special Inquiry Group of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission includes a discussion of what the consequences would have been if a core meltdown had occurred and stated:

"Briefly, the following discussion indicates that had a core meltdown occurred in TMI-2, the consequences would likely not have been catastrophic. The reactor building probably would have survived the accident, and the large majority of the radioactive material released from the fuel in the accident would probably have been retained within the reactor building and not released to the surrounding environment."

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UPDR  
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7134 Heather Heath Lane  
West Bloomfield Michigan 48073  
July 21, 1980

Congressman Broomfield  
430 North Woodward  
Birmingham Michigan 48011

Dear Congressman:

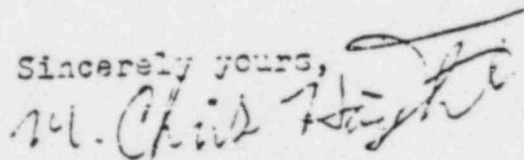
I am writing you this letter to express my bitterness on the completion of the two nuclear plants in Michigan. The plant in Midland which Consumer power is constructing and the other in Monroe (Fermy) which Edison is constructing. Edison says this plant is one of the most safest and modern in the world. Regardless, there are still dangers that exist. If a melt down was to occur it would destroy a area the size of Pennsylvania for thousands of years. I am sure with all the nuclear plants in the world today that a disaster is bound to come.

I am sure you are aware of the dangers of nuclear power and all the other dangers that go along with it. These power companies are also trying to lift the band on the dumping on nuclear waste in Michigan. The big problem is that the public is so ignorant about the dangers of nuclear power.

It almost seems that these wealthy power companies or the Government is keeping the people uninformed about the dangers of nuclear power. The safety of the world is in the greedy hands of the power companies.

Alternate energy sources should be developed, such as sun, wind and tidal. I as a young adult am concerned about our future, I want to be assured that my children will develop normally. I am not only writing about my feelings on nuclear power but many of my peers share the same feelings.

Sincerely yours,



Michael C. Haight