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January 10, 1983

Nurzio Palladino  
 Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
 Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Palladino:

On December 30, a subcommittee of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Commission on Reactor Safeguards announced a technical meeting to discuss the proposed Skagit Nuclear Project at Benton County, Washington. In light of the financial and planning disaster which Washington Public Power Supply System represents, I find it absurd that the NRC is wasting its vital resources on this dubious project.

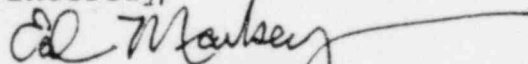
The problems of WPPSS are well known. Originally designed to meet the forseen "burgeoning power demands" of the Northwest, WPPSS today offers a caricature of an oversupplied tanning-lotion merchant during the rainy season. If the nuclear industry and its regulators have learned anything from the lesson WPPSS offers, it is that we should not waste public, private, or regulatory resources on projects destined to meet the same fate WPPSS did in the marketplace.

I might further add that all of the utilities involved--Pugett Lighting and Sound, Portland Genral Electric Company, Pacific Power and Light Company, and Washington Water Power Company--have a financial interest in one or more of the WPPSS projects. An important question NRC must monitor is why these utilities are investing in nuclear power plants when nuclear plants they currently own are not needed.

I firmly believe the vital resources of the NRC's ACRS should be put to a better use. It is foolish to waste NRC's time and energy on a project which will never serve the public.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
 Chairman, Subcommittee  
 on Oversight & Investigations

cc: Paul Shewmon  
 Chairman, ACRS