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United States Senate

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August 15, 1984

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Nunzio J. Palladino, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
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SENT AUG 21 1984

Dear Chairman Palladino and Members of the Commission:

As the Nuclear Regulatory Commission continues deliberations concerning the status of Three Mile Island Unit 1, I repeat my strong support for the positions taken by Governor Dick Thornburgh in his letter of June 14, 1984 to the Commission on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

More than five years after the accident, progress on the clean up of TMI Unit 2 has been too long delayed. In fact, there still are no assurances that funding for the decontamination and clean up of TMI Unit 2 will be forthcoming, and that the highly radiated materials can be removed in the near future. Under these circumstances, any decision on the future of Unit 1 must be dependent on resolving the present potential health and safety hazard existing in Unit 2. The danger to personnel working at Unit 1 prior to significant progress in the clean up of Unit 2 would simply be an unacceptable risk which the Commission must address in any restart proceedings.

Beyond the safety hazards are serious unanswered questions highlighted by the Appeal Board in its decision of May 24, 1984. The Appeal Board recommended further fact finding proceedings concerning management integrity and cheating issues, and I call on the Commission to follow the direction of the Appeal Board and bring these matters to a convincing conclusion.

Finally, and of great importance to the area residents, there are the emergency response difficulties highlighted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in a recent test conducted in the Harrisburg area. With the serious potential safety hazard existing in Unit 2, your Commission must resolve these deficiencies prior to any restart determinations.

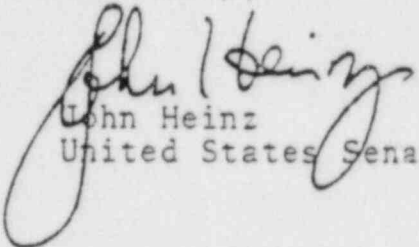
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Chairman Nunzio J. Palladino
August 15, 1984
Page 2

For all the above reasons, I urge in strongest terms that Commission consideration of any restart of nuclear power generation at Three Mile Island is not appropriate at this time and should not occur unless and until all steps have been completed to ensure the complete clean up of the damaged facility and to ensure the health and safety of the people of central Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



John Heinz
United States Senate

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