



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH

October 20, 1987

Mr. Lando W. Zech, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 21555

Dear Chairman Zech,

The staff recommendation currently under consideration by the NRC Commissioners to approve the proposed rule change regarding the licensing of nuclear power plants in the absence of state approved emergency response plans, requires that I once again, in the strongest terms, voice my opposition to this proposed rule change. The Commission should not subjugate the well being of Massachusetts citizens to the interests of a handful of utility company owners.

On February 24, 1987 I testified before the Commission to register my opposition to this proposed rule change. In my oral and subsequent written testimony I argued that Commission approval of this proposal would ignore not only the lessons learned from the radiological emergency that occurred at Three Mile Island but would undercut the basic commands of the Atomic Energy Act and other statutes governing the NRC. No arguments have been presented to shake my firm belief that emergency response plans, proposed and approved by state and local governments, are essential to protect the health and safety of the public.

In my view, the Commission now stands poised to disregard its mandate to protect the public health and safety. Its approval of this proposed rule would not only serve to jeopardize the public health and safety of people in Massachusetts but would signify a willingness to run roughshod over the traditional interests of sovereign states. The Commission should not approve this proposed rule change.

I urge the Commission to reject its staff's recommendation.

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Sincerely,

Michael S. Dukakis
Governor

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add: P. Crane, H-1035
J. Lane, 265 PHIL