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Mr. Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

OFFICE OF
DOCKETING
BRANCH

Attn.:Docketing and Service Branch

Dear Mr. Chilk:

As a nuclear engineer with over 40 years experience I am writing to express my support for the rule that would provide for the issuance of a full power operating license in those instances where all other licensing requirements have been met notwithstanding willful lack of participation in the development or implementation of offsite emergency planning by state and local governments. The important thing is to have an adequate emergency plan; the source of that plan is of little consequence.

Nuclear power is needed. At the present time, and into the foreseeable future, there are only two practical energy sources to meet the growing power demands in the U.S.--coal and uranium. Neither one can do it alone. Relying on coal alone could lead to a major curtailment in the availability of electricity if its supply were interrupted, possibly by lack of means of transportation during very cold weather. Also coal has many environmental problems, and the supply problems, to meet anticipated electricity demands would be tremendous.

At the present time the nuclear industry is in a critical state in this country. Unless something positive is done to revive it, there is a strong possibility it may collapse. This would have a devastating effect on our economy.

Enactment of this new rule would be a major step in reviving this industry.

Sincerely,

George A. Bennett
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