

2349 Millennium Lane
Reston, Virginia 22091
March 14, 1979

Harold R. Denton
Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: Washington Post Article Dated March 14, 1979
"5 Nuclear Power Plants Ordered Closed"

Dear Mr. Denton:

Virginia consumers of electric power were not asked if we wanted to pay for the construction of the Surry I and Surry II atomic power plants via higher electric rates; indeed we were promised lower rates because its construction would provide more and cheaper power. Nor were we asked if we wanted a potentially dangerous factory built to provide this cheaper power. And, our cries of outrage, disgust and disbelief went virtually unheard when it was discovered -- by a common citizen -- that the plant was built on a fault -- something which never should have happened and wouldn't have happened if the government regulatory agencies had been up to snuff. Wasn't Vepco, in the end, fined a small amount for covering up their prior knowledge of that fault? And who, in the long run, paid that fine?

Now another problem has been discovered -- a computer (who feeds them?) calculation error (who checks them?) which resulted in cooling system pipes that are not strong enough. The responsibility for this miscalculation is not the consumer's, but the burden of payment for the increased costs due to shut down and repairs, we are told, will be ours -- at double the rate we are now paying for electricity.

Why? Why must we continue to be penalized for something we have no control over; something the government and the power companies are directly responsible for?

With the ever increasing spiral of government ineptitude, the consumer is being asked -- no, TOLD -- to shoulder more and more of the burden of cost. By continuing to force us to do so, to cover up for your mistakes, you have put us one step past cynicism toward zombism or rebellion. Take your pick.

Sincerely,


GARY B. GILKE

cc: Vepco, Gov. Dalton, Rep. Fisher, Sen. Warner, Washington Post,
Senate Energy Conservation and Regulation Subcommittee, Sen. Gary Hart

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