

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

MARCH 11, 1981

TO: NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ACTION REQUESTED:

~~DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF JUDY F. PEACHEE~~

Direct Reply

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 004997

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 12, 1981

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: THE HONORABLE ALFRED E. ALQUIST
STATE SENATOR
CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE
5031 STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO CA 95814

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO GIVE THE HIGHEST
PRIORITY TO ACTION TO END THE PARALYSIS WHICH
NOW GRIPS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT LICENSING
PROCEDURES (SPECIFICALLY IN SOUTHERN CA SAN
ONOFRE NUCLEAR UNITS 2 AND 3

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7610.

RETURN BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 94, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

8104230

004

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING

☐ H - INTERNAL

☒ I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD)

8/102/18

ID # 004997

AT

Name of Correspondent: Alfred E. Alquist

☒ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: urges the Pres. to give the highest priority to action to end the paralysis which now grips nuclear power plant licensing procedures. (Specifically in Southern Calif., San Onofre Nuclear units 2 and 3)

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>IAFORD</u>	<u>Peachee</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>8/102/19</u> CH		CH <u>S</u>	<u>1 1</u>
<u>NRC</u>		<u>D</u>	<u>8/103/18</u> CH			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				
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		Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
C - Comments
D - Draft Response
F - Fact Sheet
I - Info Copy
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - For Signature
X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Answered
B - Non-Special Referral
C - Completed
S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

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ROOM 5031
STATE CAPITOL 95814
AREA CODE (916) 445-9740

DISTRICT ADDRESS
777 NORTH FIRST STREET
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95112
AREA CODE (408) 286-8318

STATE SENATOR
ALFRED E. ALQUIST
ELEVENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

REPRESENTING
SAN BENITO, SANTA CLARA, AND ALAMEDA COUNTIES
IN THE

Senate

COMMITTEES
FINANCE
CHAIRMAN
ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION



004997

February 12, 1981

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

When you served as Governor of California many of us worked with you to develop policies aimed toward ensuring the State's energy future. We are convinced that future is now being jeopardized by inordinate delays in the licensing of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. In Southern California, San Onofre Nuclear Units 2 and 3 also are delayed in the licensing process. Fuel loading for San Onofre Unit 2, we understand, needs to be completed before October, 1981.

We urge you to give the highest priority to action to end the paralysis which now grips nuclear power plant licensing procedures.

On December 7, 1979, President Carter, in responding to recommendations of the Kemeny Commission on the accident at Three Mile Island, endorsed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) decision to pause in issuing licenses in order to put its house in order but urged the "...NRC to complete its work as quickly as possible and, in any event, not later than six months from today."

Fourteen months later, the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant near San Luis Obispo, California -- completely constructed and ready to come on line -- has still not been licensed. No other nuclear plant, including those recently licensed and those now operating, has undergone such intense scrutiny, which includes at least 160 public hearings.

Once allowed to operate, Diablo Canyon could save 20 million barrels of oil annually and could result in a net decrease in costs to Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E) customers of approximately \$330 million a year. As the California Public Utilities Commission has stated:

From an economic and service reliability perspective, operation of Diablo Canyon units would appear to have substantial advantage: added generation capacity at a time when electric reserve margins are low; replacement of overworked oil- and gas-fired generating plants which depend on expensive and insecure supplies of imported fuel; and utilization of the massive investments already made in Diablo facilities."

The California Energy Commission also recognizes the vital importance of Diablo Canyon and San Onofre Units 2 and 3 and includes these power plants in its forecast of the energy supplies required to meet state needs to the year 1990.

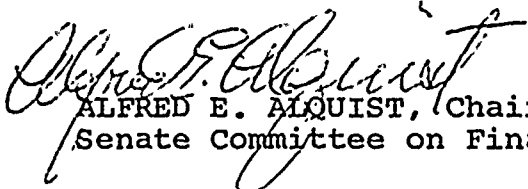
We urge you to promptly declare in clear terms that it is the policy of your administration to expedite the licensing of nuclear power plants so that those plants now constructed and awaiting licensing can make their contribution to the energy needs of this country. As your Energy Policy Task Force stated, "Revitalization of the essential nuclear power programs requires top-level national leadership which itself can substantially strengthen public support and facilitate necessary legislative changes."

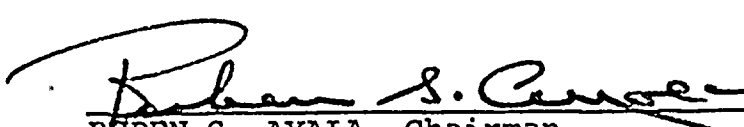
Safety is, of course, a concern to us all, but it need not be sacrificed in order to gain an expeditious regulatory process. Again quoting from the report of your Energy Policy Task Force:

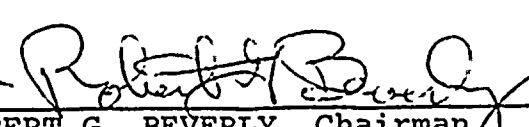
Expediting the licensing process would force all regulators to separate the important from the unimportant and thus direct sufficient attention to safety matters which have currently become smothered in a morass of detail...Reducing the licensing time for nuclear power plants by focusing on substantive issues only will enhance safety--not compromise it--and speed the time of the United States' energy security.

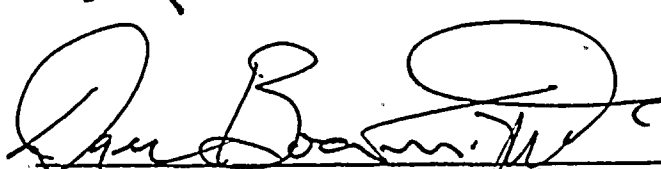
As a first step in support of the policy defined by your task force, we urge you to appoint at the earliest date a strong chairman to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission who will see that your policy is carried out.

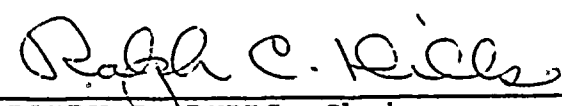
Sincerely,

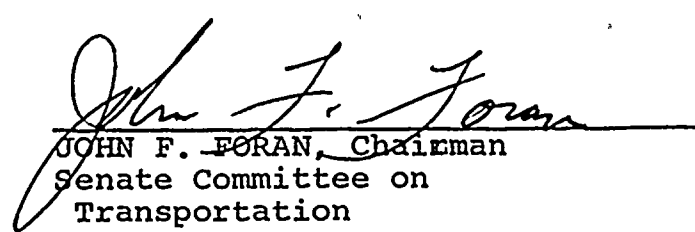

ALFRED E. ALQUIST, Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance



RUBEN S. AYALA, Chairman
Senate Committee on
Agriculture & Water Resources

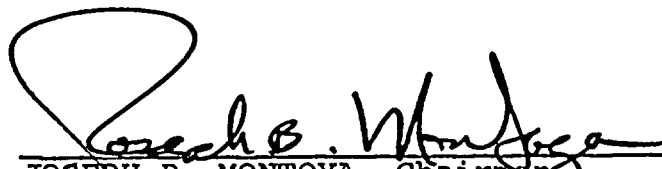

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RALPH C. DILLS, Chairman
Senate Committee on
Governmental Organization

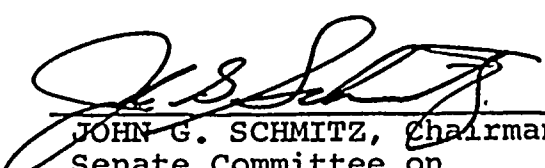

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Senate Committee on
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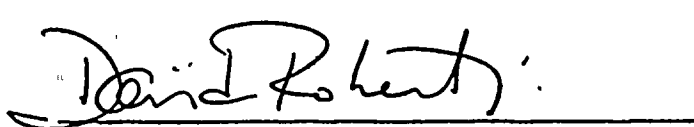

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DAVID ROBERTI
President Pro Tempore
State Senate

APR 10 1951