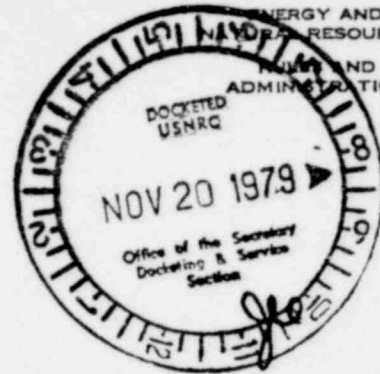


United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 6, 1979



Dear Chairman Hendrie:

In your appearance yesterday before the House Energy and Power Subcommittee, you mentioned the possibility of closing certain nuclear plants near population centers because evacuation of such areas, in the event of a serious accident, might not be "entirely successful." I am writing to urge that the Marble Hill Facility, now under construction at Madison, Indiana, be included among those plants you will consider shutting down.

Louisville, the largest metropolitan area in Kentucky, is located just 30 miles from Madison. If a nuclear disaster were to occur, the lives of a million people in the city and its vicinity would be jeopardized. Twenty-five percent of the population of my state would be affected. Since even during the most normal circumstances the roads and highways of Louisville are congested, I can assure you that under conditions of panic, a massive evacuation would be absolutely impossible to achieve.

You are all too familiar with the track record of Marble Hill so far. It has been a disaster--a comedy of errors that is not humorous, but tragic. I have no confidence whatsoever that the defects already brought to light involving safety-related construction can ever be satisfactorily corrected. Therefore, in line with the reasoning offered yesterday, I strongly recommend that Marble Hill, with the advantage of being in the early stages of construction, be considered as a prime candidate for any closures your agency may undertake.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

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