

Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20540

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

I take the liberty of addressing this brief comment to you instead of to the Licensing Board because of the nature of the subject to which I refer, and because the final awesome decision on the matter of which I write will be yours.

For an appreciable time now, I have followed the proceedings leading to the application of General Atomics, Inc. to build eight nuclear power plants on the Atlantic coast. From 7-8-68 to 10-11-68, James H. of the General Atomics Corporation mentioned that an "early" decision on application for a license to build three plants would be made before the Licensing Board. I presume that a final decision may be made soon.

And I presume too, that uttermost "atrocities" by the applicant's own engineers and scientists and hired consultants will prove without any reasonable doubt that the proposed plants could not possibly come through after installation.

I am long retired; have no business connections and could not possibly even attempt to refute applicants' absolute confidence in their proposal.

However, when the safety and lives of uncounted numbers of citizens are at stake, I am a extreme pessimist.

I write this letter only to state the following; these plants would be at the mercy of the elements. I think that it is unconscionable assumptions of mere man to even attempt to evaluate the optimum of forces which hurricanes, tidal waves, typhoons or any other of the other cataclysmic forces which the oceans of the world can and have generated throughout the ages, and still choose to put man's puny, but in this case, potentially deadly, machines at the mercy of these forces. For, if a storm of unprecedented ferocity ever to wash ashore or or all eight of these eight huge, vulnerable nuclear plants, the loss of human life and of property might be beyond comprehension, a tragedy which would forever haunt the decision-makers.

Respectfully yours,

J. L. Tocher
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