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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

STEVE NEAL
5TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

June 1, 1979

Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555



Dear Mr. Hendrie:

Shortly after the accident that occurred at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant in Pennsylvania, I contacted the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to urge that it delay a decision on granting a construction license for the proposed Perkins Nuclear Power Plant. The Perkins plant is to be located along the banks of the Yadkin River in North Carolina, which borders my Congressional district.

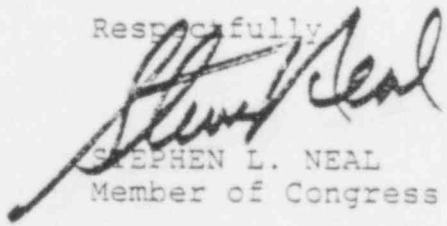
I requested the delay because I do not believe it would be prudent to proceed with any nuclear project until all the questions of safety that have been raised by the accident at TMI are answered.

My first concern, of course, is for the safety of the people we both serve. However, I am also very much concerned about the negative impact of granting a construction or operating license, in terms of public confidence in both government and the nuclear energy industry. Such action, this soon after that accident, would be a grave mistake.

Failing a response from the Licensing Board to my urgings, I am moved to call upon the Commission to place a moratorium on granting such licenses until we have a clear understanding of the impact of the Three Mile Island accident.

Thank you very much for your consideration. I have enclosed a copy of my correspondence with the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Respectfully


STEPHEN L. NEAL
Member of Congress

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