

May 11, 1979



Mr. James R. Yore, Chairman  
Atomic Safety and Licensing  
Board Panel  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Yore:

On April 2, 1979, I telegraphed you seeking your assurance that a decision on licensing the construction of the proposed Perkins Nuclear Power Plant in North Carolina be delayed until "all questions of nuclear safety arising from the Three Mile Island experience have been resolved." Your reply was appreciated but it did not address the central issue of licensing the plant.

This week, the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee passed legislation placing a moratorium on licensing nuclear power plants, and it is likely to pass the full Congress. As a result of this action, I fear that additional pressure might be brought to speed up the licensing process so that Perkins would not come under the legislation. I do not have to tell you the damaging effect that such a move - real or perceived - would have on public confidence in government and in the nuclear energy industry.

Therefore, I am compelled again to seek your assurance that a decision on licensing Perkins will not be made until the facts on nuclear safety are in or, at the very least, if the moratorium bill passes, until the term of the moratorium has ended.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN L. NEAL  
Member of Congress

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD PANEL  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

APR 17 1979

Docket Nos.  
STN 50-488  
STN 50-489  
STN 50-490



Honorable Stephen L. Neal  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: DUKE POWER COMPANY  
(Perkins Nuclear Station,  
Units 1, 2 and 3)

Dear Mr. Neal:

Your telegram of April 2, 1979, concerning the Duke Power Company's proposed Perkins Nuclear Plant was received by this office. At the present time the Commission is assessing the impact of the Three Mile Island experience on licensing and I will inform you of the results of that study as soon as it is available. We appreciate your interest in this matter.

Since the subject of your message concerns an adjudicatory proceeding, copies of your telegram and this reply will be served on all the parties in the Perkins proceeding and also filed in the Commission's Public Document Rooms.

Sincerely,

James R. Yore, Chairman  
Atomic Safety and Licensing  
Board Panel

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Telegram

|                        |             |          |                          |   |                  |                        |
|------------------------|-------------|----------|--------------------------|---|------------------|------------------------|
| NO WORDS - CL. OF SVC. | PD OR COLL. | CASH NO. | CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF | THIS MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AS A TELEGRAM UNLESS IT IS OTHERWISE INDICATED. | PRESS<br>OPR NPR | OVER NIGHT<br>TELEGRAM |
|                        |             |          | GWA 126773               |   |                  |                        |

Send the following message, subject to the Telegraph Company's conditions, rules and regulations, which are on file with regulatory authorities.

April 2, 1979

*Energy / Nuclear*

Mr. James R. Yore, Chairman  
Atomic Safety Licensing Board  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Because of the present serious situation at the Three Mile Island Nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, I respectfully insist that you hold up licensing of Duke Power Company's proposed Perkins Nuclear Plant in North Carolina until all questions of nuclear safety arising from the Three Mile Island experience have been resolved.

The unfortunate event in Pennsylvania has created widespread suspicion about the safety of nuclear power plants, and public distrust of the nuclear licensing and regulatory process. The spectre of nuclear disaster looms in the public mind, if not in reality, and I do not believe it would be prudent to proceed with any nuclear project until a clear determination is made concerning the cause, effect, and correction of the near-disaster at Three Mile Island.

STEPHEN L. NEAL  
U. S. Congressman



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