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



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Dear Sir,

We have just heard of last week's accident at the Surry, Virginia nuclear power plant which resulted in the hospitalization of 26 people engaged in the unprecedentedly hazardous replacement of the steam generator at the plant. This accident is a clear warning of the possibility of future far more dangerous accidents during the replacement of the generator, with risks of exposure to exceptionally high levels of radiation.

Under the responsibilities delegated to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, it is clear that the only responsible course of action by the Commission at this time is the suspension of any further work on replacement of the faulty generator until open public hearings are held, and a thorough environmental impact statement assessing the possible hazards of the task can be prepared.

It remains inconceivable that a task involving such unprecedented hazards and risk could have been allowed to be initiated without a series of public hearings on the matter, and without an environmental impact statement having to be prepared. The complete suspension of work on the replacement generator by the Commission is clearly in order, and is an appropriate follow up to the injunction that has been obtained by the Virginia State Health Department.

I look forward to your taking prompt action on this matter, and to your keeping us informed of the developments.

Yours respectfully

Robert Pollard, for
CHESAPEAKE ENERGY ALLIANCE

cc President Jimmy Carter
Attorney General Griffin Bell
Congressperson Mikulski
File, etc.

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P.S. The Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting, Channel 22 (& 67), is showing 'Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang', a documentary on the deathly hazards of low level radiation and on the government's efforts to suppress the information. The documentary will be broadcast on Sunday, February 25, at 8.00 p.m., and should be required viewing for members and staff of the Commission.

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