



Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20545

JUN 4 1981

Mr. William Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Dircks:

The enclosed correspondence has been directed to the Department of Energy. The contents indicate that a reply should be made more appropriately by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Accordingly, we are forwarding the original to you for consideration, along with a copy of our reply.

Sincerely,


Hugh Kendrick, Acting Director  
Plans and Analysis Division  
Office of Nuclear Energy

2 Enclosures

Inasmuch as a significant portion of your letter deals with matters under the cognizance of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, we are forwarding your letter to them for appropriate action.

Thank you for your interest in nuclear energy programs.

Sincerely,

  
Hugh Kendrick, Acting Director  
Plans and Analysis Division  
Office of Nuclear Energy

cc:  
William Dircks, NRC



Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20545

JUN 4 1981

Mr. Cecil H. Bell  
1328 Kimball  
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Bell:

Your letter expressing support for the utilization of nuclear energy has been forwarded to this office for consideration.

One of the most important things we can do to help solve our Nation's energy problem is to get the nuclear industry back on track again. To do so will require a stable and predictable licensing environment. Therefore, the Department of Energy will support activities to provide for streamlined licensing and siting of nuclear powerplants. However, the nuclear industry's problems (as illustrated by 44 reactors canceled in the last 4 years) cannot be attributed solely to an uncertain regulatory environment. Inflation, with its associated increases in the cost of capital, and diminished load-growth forecasts have led to criticism and curtailment of utilities' plans for expansion. It is, therefore, imperative that we accurately assess our electrical requirements for the future in order to prevent low electrical growth projections from becoming self-fulfilling prophecies. The Nation cannot afford a shortfall in electricity and maintain a healthy economy. Thus, the President's determination to bring inflation under control is an essential ingredient in revitalizing our nuclear industry.

Although our plans are still being developed, it is clear that a vigorous and balanced nuclear technology program will be required to meet our energy needs. I anticipate that this program, when fully formulated, will involve a major effort to close the Light Water Reactor fuel cycle, put in place the reprocessing activity required to support a breeder reactor development program, and work towards developing the technology to close the breeder fuel cycle. Thus, I believe, we will set in motion the effort to regain our lead in nuclear technology and restore confidence in our commitment to rely on nuclear energy as a major contributor to our future energy supply.

The Three Mile Island accident attracted a great deal of attention from the media, various segments of the public, and the Government. After careful evaluation, however, the President's Commission stated, "On the basis of present scientific knowledge, the radiation doses received by the general population as a result of exposure to the radioactivity released during the accident were so small that there will be no detectable additional cases of cancer, developmental abnormalities, or genetic ill health as a consequence of the accident at Three Mile Island."

Jan 28-81 Tri-City Herald

## Taiwan builds a-plants in half the time

It is taking the Washington Public Power Supply System at least 10 years to build a nuclear plant at Hanford, but the WPPSS managing director has found a place where nuclear plants are being built in half that time.

Bob Ferguson, following a recent visit to Taiwan, said the Taiwanese are building four nuclear plants similar to No. 2 at Hanford. It is taking them 5.1 years to build two of them, he said.

He said he visited Taiwan to find out how they can do it so fast.

Ferguson's trip was sponsored and paid for by the Nuclear Energy Society of the Pacific Northwest Association for Science and Technology, a private organization.

Accompanying him were Peter Shen, former director of the Joint Center for Graduate Study in Richland and now WPPSS technical director, former U.S. Rep. Mike McCormack, and scientists from the Pacific Northwest.

The four plants visited are being built near Taipei, the capital of Taiwan.

Ferguson said he accepted an invitation to speak at a conference on nuclear power and technology in Taiwan because he wanted to see the successful nuclear construction by the Taiwan Power Co.

Taipower's four units are General Electric boiling water reactors, the same at No. 2. EBASCO and Bechtel Power Corp. were architect-engineers, he said.

Two units have operated the past two to three years with a plant availability for power production at 70 percent — considered very good by the electric industry, Ferguson said.

The other two units are nearing completion and fuel loading.

"You should recognize that Taiwan is committed to installing 20,000 megawatts nuclear generating capacity by the year 2000," Ferguson said.

The five WPPSS nuclear plants will generate a total of about 6,000 megawatts. It takes about 1,000 megawatts to supply a city the size of Seattle.

Ferguson said he also discussed exchanging information with Taipower to help the Supply System's program.

Although the labor market and working conditions are different, he said, "their experience establishes possible targets and limits to assist" in WPPSS 1982 budget evaluation.

## Franklin PUD to study bond sale

The Franklin County Public Utility District will consider selling \$2.2 million in 15-year tax-exempt revenue bonds at a special board meeting Thursday.

# TMI delays blasted

By BOB WYNNE  
Herald Staff Writer

Three Mile Island's crippled nuclear reactor can operate again in less

time and with few repair costs than currently thought, the Richland Lions Club was told Tuesday.

Galen Winsor, senior engineer for UNC Nuclear Industries Inc., at Hanford, said the reactor probably sustained very little damage during the accident on March 28, 1979.

Winsor, who recently returned from a three-week consulting visit to the Pennsylvania plant, said the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has delayed needlessly the repair and start-up of the damaged plant.

"They have been playing with that thing for two years and they haven't accomplished a thing," Winsor said. "TMI doesn't have more than one or two fuel rods ruptured, even now."

And Winsor said the NRC has prevented General Public Utilities from operating the damaged plant's undamaged twin reactor, TMI No. 1, since the accident.

Winsor said reports that the damaged reactor's core was melted in the accident are inaccurate.

He said the NRC has been overcautious in its requirements for cleanup.

For example, radioactive resins used to decontaminate water spilled into the



GALEN WINSOR

containment building are no more radioactive than other materials brought into the site each week. Winsor said, but the NRC has required that they be shipped to Hanford in 22 individual truck loads.

"They could have put all those resins onto one truck and brought it to Hanford," he said.

He estimated that Three Mile Island's plant No. 2 could be repaired and put back on line in six weeks if the NRC would allow the work to proceed.

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The Whole Country is looking to YOU to get us going in the right direction again , So Please don't let us down.

Sincerely

*Cecil H. Bell*  
Cecil H. Bell  
1328 Kimball  
Richland, WA. 99352

Copies To

President	Ronald Reagan
Senator	Henry Jackson
Senator	Slade Gorton
Senator	Howard Baker
Senator	Mark Hatfield
Rep.	Sid Morrison
Rep.	Tom Foley
Director of O.M.B.	David Stockman

Richland, Washington  
May 15/1981

Secretary of Energy, James B. Edwards

Washington, D. C.

Dear Secretary Edwards

I whole heartedly support 95 percent of the President's program. The only small parts I disagree with, are the cut back on Amtrak, and not forging ahead on the Clinch River breeder reactor. The Amtrak system can save many millions of gallons of oil over any other means of transportation, and the Breeder Reactor is a must if this country ever expects to get on top of the ENERGY situation.

I really want to emphasize the need to get going with full speed on Nuclear Energy. And to do that we must eliminate all unnecessary rules and regulations that are causing all of the delays. Bob Ferguson was made manager of Washington Public Power Supply System a few months ago, and in January he made a trip to Taiwan to see how they can build nuclear generating plants in 5 years when it is taking us 10 to 12 years. I don't believe, and I don't think you believe the Taiwanese are that much smarter than we are. I am sure you know what makes the difference.

( copy of article from Tri-City Herald enclosed)

We must overhaul the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NRC, and have only people on the Commission that thoroughly understands Nuclear Reactors and want to do everything possible to get all of the delayed reactors producing electricity as soon as possible. One example of unnecessary delays, the NRC has prevented the start up of #1 unit of Three Mile Island even though it has been ready to go for over 2 years now. This and other reactors all over our country could have been producing electricity and saving millions and millions of gallons of oil, thereby, preventing all those U S Dollars from going down the OPEC rat hole.

Our government should be doing everything possible to free us from the need of foreign oil, instead, we have been dragging our feet for over ten years now.

I know we have all kinds of Radical Groups that pretend they are against nuclear energy because of the hazards involved, these statements are ridiculous and most of them know it. The nuclear industry has proven to be the safest way to produce electricity, just look at the safety record. Then look at all the coal miners killed or have Black Lung disease, and all the people that have been killed on drilling rigs or in refinery explosions. Every time a News Reporter refers to Three Mile Island they refer to it as the worst nuclear accident in history, and yet there were NO casualties, not even a minor injury. That should prove something.

The Anti-Nuclear Groups try to scare the public about the disaster of a reactor melt down, (which is not likely to ever happen), but even if one did melt down the consequences would be like kids playing house, compared to the disaster this country would be in if OPEC keeps raising the price of oil or decide to shut it off completely.

I have believed all along that the situation at T M I was not as bad as the Press, the Anti-Nukes, and the NRC tried to make it appear, and I believe if the Red Tape was eliminated and the NRC would let them, the company could have the clean up and repairs made in a short time, and an article in our Tri-City Herald 5/13/81 (copy enclosed) says the same thing.

*Kendrick*

FROM:		ACTION CONTROL		DATES		CONTROL NO.	
Cecil R. Bell		COMPL DEADLINE		6/30/81		10561	
TO:		ACKNOWLEDGMENT		DATE OF DOCUMENT		5/15/81	
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		FINAL REPLY					
		FILE LOCATION		11-181			
DESCRIPTION		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS			
Delay in start of TMI and time it takes to build nuclear power plants							
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		2. Hanauer				_____ EXT. _____	
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

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