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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ROBERT O. HARRIS, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOHN S. FORSYTHE, GENERAL COUNSEL

August 13, 1969

The Honorable Glenn T. Seaborg
Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The August 1st authorization by the Atomic Energy Commission to increase the Oyster Creek Atomic Power Plant to full power and the related potential dangers created by its operation are distressing to me.

On July 16, after three months of trial operation of the plant, the Wall Street Journal and reliable trade journals reported that a decision was made by the Atomic Energy Commission to further inspect the reactor's piping and relief valves before full power operation could begin.

I am at a loss as to how in just three short weeks such a dangerous and complex facility as an atomic power plant can change its status from a possible source of danger to a safe full-power operation.

I have learned through consultation with your Agency and articles in various trade journals that during the plant's construction it was discovered that of the 137 fuel lines, 123 were found to contain cracks. And, at every point where the tubes and control-rod housings were joined around the reactor's vessel, defects existed in the welding.

We both know that the plant has had a history of serious defects and I am sure that you are fully aware of the dangers and problems created by the plant's operation.

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The Hon. Glenn T. Seaborg

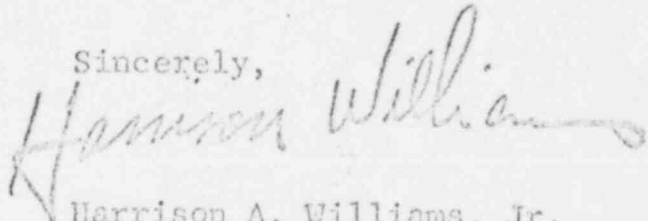
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I would appreciate an immediate full report of this recent decision and the related facts surrounding the Oyster Creek operation. Further, I would like to know what steps your agency has taken to assure the safety, health, and security of the region's environment and people.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harrison Williams, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Harrison A. Williams, Jr.

HAW:jag