

John Heinz
Pennsylvania

United States Senate



Committees:
Aging
Finance
Banking, Housing and
Urban Affairs
Energy and Natural Resources

Washington, D.C. 20510

February 14, 1984

Chairman Nunzio J. Palladino
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Palladino:

I am in receipt of your letter of January 31, 1984, which essentially reaffirmed the included decision of the Commission reached on January 27, 1984. By letters of December 9, 1983 and January 27, 1984, I raised serious concerns felt by the residents of Pennsylvania and their elected officials regarding the Commission's actions. I am particularly troubled by the apparent separation of the issues concerning the restart of Unit 1 from the problems which plague Unit 2, and the ongoing criminal trial naming General Public Utilities in an eleven-count indictment concerning the falsification of leak rate data.

Of more serious immediate concern are the recently-released findings of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which document grave deficiencies in the ability of the local communities to respond to a life-threatening emergency should that arise at the Three Mile Island facility. The results of the study are of critical importance to the restart issue, as no single issue is more important than the safety of local residents and their children. Until we can be sure that they are adequately protected in the event of an emergency, restart is out of the question. In its decision of January 27, 1984, the NRC specifically conditioned its restart agenda on the status quo and stated that "important new information" would require a reevaluation of the agenda.

Because the criminal trial concerns the conduct of the corporation and not named individuals, it seems inappropriate to separate the responsibility of General Public Utilities from the actions of its employees. I would therefore request further elaboration of the basis of the Commission's decision of January 27, 1984 in this regard; I think such elaboration is essential to the credibility of the Commission's actions in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Heinz".
John Heinz
United States Senator

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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

JH/dfk