



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

January 26, 1984

Nunzio J. Palladino, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Palladino:

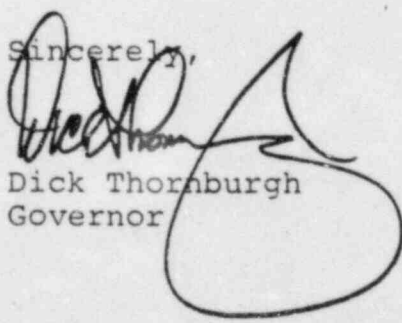
As a result of recent decisions by the Federal Courts, between now and May 31, 1985 possibly over 100 shipments of spent nuclear fuel will be made from the storage facility at West Valley, New York to the nuclear generating plant at Oyster Creek, New Jersey.

I am aware that the State of New Jersey has enacted a law prohibiting the transport of this material through counties with a population density of 1,000 persons per square mile or greater. This could significantly restrict the alternative routes over which shipments might travel.

While I can sympathize with New Jersey in its desire to limit the risk to its citizens, I am concerned that their restrictions may unduly increase risks to public health and safety of Pennsylvania's citizens during transport. One potential transport corridor in Pennsylvania would be through counties having a total population of over 2.1 million persons and include one county with a population density of nearly 1,300 persons per square mile.

To ensure that this Administration is able to protect the interests of Pennsylvania's citizens, we expect to be full participants in any Nuclear Regulatory Commission proceedings, meetings, or decisions concerning the routing or related aspects of spent fuel shipments.

Sincerely,


Dick Thornburgh
Governor

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