

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 13, 1985

Chairman Nunzio Palladino
Commissioner Thomas M. Roberts
Commissioner James K. Asselstine
Commissioner Frederick M. Bernthal
Commissioner Lando W. Zech, Jr.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

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Gentlemen:

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I am extremely disturbed that the NRC decided today to proceed to vote on restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1 without first resolving safety and other open issues.

In prior letters to you, I have urged that the NRC expeditiously resolve the outstanding issues because, in my opinion, they have a direct bearing on the restart decision. Among these issues are the integrity of GPU management, the health and safety of residents near TMI, the leak rate falsification matter, and the adequacy of the current licensee training program in light of the 1981 cheating incidents.

According to reports conveyed to me, during the NRC meeting of February 13, 1985, Chairman Palladino and Commissioners Asselstine, Bernthal and Zech indicated that they felt the latter issue was unresolved. In fact, Commissioners Asselstine and Bernthal indicated that they felt a number of issues were not sufficiently resolved as of today.

Addressing the open issues could reveal vital information. For example, hearings on the leak rate falsification matter, which resulted in Met Edison's criminal indictment and subsequent conviction, may reveal similar leak rate falsification practices at Unit 1.

Despite the fact that the above issues have not been resolved, the Commission has decided that it, nevertheless, is prepared to make a decision regarding restart. This seems to me highly irresponsible. Besides, it would be unfair, not only to those living in the vicinity of Three Mile Island, but also to the future of nuclear energy in this country, for the restart decision to be surrounded by a cloud of doubt and uncertainty.

I have repeatedly urged the Commission not to make a restart decision until all relevant issues have been resolved. Since no grounds have been established on which the NRC could conclude that the issues I have raised need not be resolved before the restart decision is made, I urge the Commission to reconsider its decision.

Sincerely,

Arlen Specter
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