

DOCKET NUMBER 50-275,323
PROD. & UTIL. FAC.

Eagleton
DOCKET NUMBER 50-289
PROD. & UTIL. FAC.

United States Senate

March 17, 1981



Respectfully referred to:

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Congressional Liaison
Washington, D.C. 20555



Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

TFE:rob
RE: Soxman, Kenneth
Dirksen 1209

Thomas F. Eagleton
U.S.S.

Form #2

3/24...To OCA for Direct Reply..Suspense: April 7...Cpy to: Docket..81-0412

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
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Southwest Missouri State University

Springfield, Missouri 65802

March 10, 1981

Thomas Eagleton
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

I would like to know when the two unit nuclear plant at Diablo Canyon will be permitted to start making electricity. Also, I would like encouragement to be given to the NRC to push on and get TMI unit one back on line.

Locally we have two coal-fired publicly owned electric generating plants. The older one has been operating under a special EPA variance agreement for several years (since it was originally a gas plant and then ordered to convert to coal). The second and newer plant has never been able to meet the emission standards and continues to operate under protestations of the EPA. We all know, and as you know too, there is respected and undeniable evidence that coal burning is killing people everyday. I believe the OTA's study on the Direct Use of Coal puts the figure at close to 40,000 lives lost per year? Still these plants, and I suppose hundreds of other coal-burners as well, are allowed to go on day after day.

It is my understanding, and correct me if I'm wrong, that no one has been killed from the emissions from commercially operated nuclear power plants, including TMI unit two. So, what's the big deal anyway? Why the hang-ups? Don't the ordinary people have rights too - or maybe only the few anti-nuke radicals have a corner on the rights issue?

I would like to know the reasoning behind letting the lethal coal-burners go while keeping nuclear plants closed. Please tell me.

I would like to see nuclear plants brought on line fast and take the place of coal in making electricity. What can I do to help?

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Soxman

Kenneth A. Soxman
Assistant Professor of Physics



1981 MAR 14 PM 12:24
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0412

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

APR 09 1981



The Honorable Thomas F. Eagleton
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Eagleton:

Thank you for your March 17, 1981 letter on behalf of Professor Kenneth A. Soxman, who is concerned about NRC licensing delays, particularly those related to the Diablo Canyon units in California and Three Mile Island Unit 1.

Following the accident at Three Mile Island, the Commission did not issue any further operating licenses for over a year while a thorough review was made of implications of the accident. In the spring of 1980, the Commission approved new requirements for operating licenses based on the lessons learned from Three Mile Island. Since that time several new operating licenses have been issued, the most recent being for Farley Unit 2 in Alabama on March 31, 1981.

The diversion of resources and the rethinking of safety requirements following the TMI accident adversely affected licensing activity at the Commission. As a result, we estimate that in 1981 and 1982 approximately a dozen nuclear plants will be completed from 1 to 12 months before a full power license decision can be made. The Commission is concerned about this situation and is taking a number of steps to correct it. These steps are outlined in the attached testimony given by Chairman Hendrie on April 2 before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

With respect to the Diablo Canyon units, an updated Supplemental Safety Evaluation Report for low-power operation was issued by the NRC staff on March 5, 1981. Hearings will commence in May with a licensing decision on low-power operation expected in February 1982 and on full-power license in March 1982. These projected decision dates would mean a thirteen month delay using the applicant's construction completion date and an eleven month delay using the NRC staff's.

Three Mile Island Unit 1 was down for refueling at the time of the accident at TMI-2 in late March 1979. On July 2, 1979, the Commission ordered that the facility remain in cold shutdown until further order of the Commission, stating that "the Commission presently lacks the requisite reasonable assurance that the ... Licensee's Three Mile Island Unit No. 1 Facility...can be operated without endangering the health and safety of the public." Further, the Commission stated that public hearings would be conducted to determine whether TMI-1 should be allowed to resume operation and if so, under what conditions.

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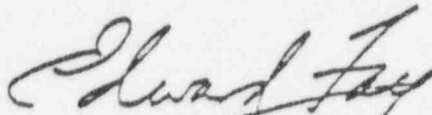
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In a subsequent order issued August 9, the Commission established procedures for the hearing and decision on the issues. The hearings began before a NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on October 15, 1980. The current estimate is that a Board decision will not be made before late 1981. I am enclosing for your further information the most recent Commission order regarding the restart proceeding.

Professor Soxman is correct that there have been no known fatalities to date due to radiation emissions from commercially operated nuclear power plants. The Presidential Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island concluded that the radiation doses to the surrounding population were so low that "the overall health effects will be minimal." Their report stated that "the accident may result in no additional cancer deaths or, if there were any, they would be so few that they could not be detected." An NRC/HEW/EPA task force found the probabilities of a cancer death resulting from the TMI releases to be less than one for the approximately 2 million people within 50 miles of the plant.

I hope that this information is helpful in responding to your constituent.

Sincerely,



1207 Carlton Kemmerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated