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MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT
ON NUCLEAR SAFETY
Thursday, March 25, 1976
11:00 a.m.

~~✓~~ Glenn - when
is text
of maintenance

CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

MARCH UNOFFICIAL POLL ON ATTITUDE TOWARDS MORATORIUM

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PUBLICLY FOR</u>	<u>PUBLICLY AGAINST</u>	<u>NO PUBLIC POSITION</u>	<u>LEANING FOR</u>	<u>LEANING AGAINST</u>
CranstonX		.X
TunneyX			
JohnsonX		.X
Don ClausenX		.X
MossX			
LeggettX		.X
John BurtonX	X	
Phil BurtonX	X	
MillerX		
DellumsX	X	
StarkX	X	
EdwardsX		
RyanX		
McCloskeyX			
MinetaX		
McFallX			
SiskX			
TalcottX		.X
KrebsX		
KetchumX		.X
LagomarsinoX		.X
GoldwaterX			
CormanX		
MoorheadX		
ReesX		
WaxmanX	X	
Roybal	X				
RousselotX		.X
BellX			
BurkeX		
HawkinsX		
DanielsonX		
Charles WilsonX		
Glenn AdersonX		
Del ClawsonX		.X
HannafordX		
LloydX		.X
BrownX		.X
PettisX		.X
PattersonX	X	
WigginsX		.X
HinshawX		.X
Bob WilsonX		.X
Van DeerlinX		.X
BurgenerX			

CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

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<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PUBLICLY FOR</u>	<u>PUBLICLY AGAINST</u>	<u>NO PUBLIC POSITION</u>	<u>LEANING FOR</u>	<u>LEANING AGAINST</u>
Cranston			X		X
Tunney		X			
Johnson			X		X
Don Clausen			X		X
Moss		X			
Leggett			X		X
John Burton			X	X	
Phil Burton			X	X	
Miller			X		
Dellums			X	X	
Stark			X	X	
Edwards			X		
Ryan			X		
McCloskey		X			
Mineta			X		
McFall		X			
Sisk		X			
Talcott			X		X
Krebs			X		
Ketchum			X		X
Lagomarsino			X		X
Goldwater		X			
Corman			X		
Moorhead			X		
Rees			X		
Waxman			X	X	
Roybal	X				
Pousselot			X		X
Bell		X			
Burke			X		
Hawkins			X		
Danielson			X		
Charles Wilson			X		
Glenn Anderson			X		
Del Clawson			X		X
Hannaford			X		
Lloyd			X		X
Brown			X		X
Pettis			X		X
Patterson			X	X	
Wiggins			X		X
Hinshaw			X		X
Bob Wilson			X		X
Van Deerlin			X		X
Burgener		X			

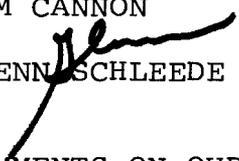
* Poll conducted at Washington staff level, March 8, 1976

File

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON
FROM:  GLENN SCHLEEDE
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON OUR DRAFT Q&A ON
NUCLEAR POWER MORATORIUM

Attached at Tab A are the comments received on the draft Q&A circulated last Friday. Comments were received from EPA, CEQ, Seidman, OMB, FEA, ERDA, NSC, Commerce and NRC. No comments received from Hartmann or Morton. Marsh, Friedersdorf, Buchen and Scowcroft indicated draft was OK.

A revised draft is attached at Tab B. I propose that we attach this to the briefing paper for the meeting on Thursday.

DMB

- Q. The people of this state will soon be voting on the question of whether or not to slow down or stop the development of nuclear powerplants. What is your position on this question?
- A. I don't believe it would be proper for me to attempt to tell the people of this state how to vote on a specific issue that will be before you in a state election.

I will share with you my thoughts on the general subject of nuclear power.

First, we are now in the 18th year of commercial nuclear power production in the United States. In total the Nation's commercial nuclear plants represent several hundred years of operating experience -- without a single death from a nuclear accident. That's a good record. The 57 plants now operating are supplying about 9 percent of our electrical power.

Second, even though we have an excellent safety record, I believe we must continue our efforts to assure it remains so in the years ahead. As one step, I have asked for more funds in 1977 for both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and ERDA for reactor safety R&D.

Third, we are now safely storing nuclear fuel wastes at nuclear power plant sites. We must accelerate our efforts to provide for safe, secure, environmentally acceptable transportation and long-term storage of these nuclear wastes. I have also requested funds for a major expansion of programs to do this.

*Very
positive*

Fourth, in January 1975, I activated NRC as an independent regulatory agency for commercial nuclear power. Ensuring the safety of nuclear powerplants is the primary responsibility of that agency. I have increased both the funding and manpower for the NRC so that it has the resources it needs to carry out this and its other important assignments in the nuclear area.

Fifth, the question of

Sixth, there are many other important aspects of nuclear power which should be considered when making such important determinations about nuclear power's future. For example, I understand that electricity produced by nuclear power in California, as elsewhere, would be a good deal cheaper than any other available alternative and could reduce California's needs for imported oil or other high cost fossil fuel supplies.

Finally, I recognize that there are still a number of responsible people in the country that have legitimate concerns and questions about nuclear power. This is quite understandable. We should expect questions about technology. It's important that we respond to these questions. I can assure you that the energy and environmental agencies reporting to me will do everything they can to answer questions that come to them. I have every confidence that the independent NRC will also address fully any questions that come to its attention.

technologies that are just achieving wide-scale application.

ERDA - Sediments

PER RAY WALTERS.....

Q&A ON NUCLEAR MORATORIUM



PARA. #1

Ref the President saying he will not tell the people
how to vote.....

Walters and company seem to remember that the President
in a speech in Sacramento last October said that he
was opposed to the moratorium issue and people should
not vote for it....therefore he may have gone on record
as opposing it.

} Home
this

REF NUCLEAR WASTE

This is a growing issue in California NOTE: Storage facilities
for large scale nuclear wates are not needed until the 1980s
and ERDA has mounted a major program of development and
demonstration for such storage facilities

THIS HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH ROBERTS' AREA

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Second, even though we have an excellent safety record, I believe we must continue our efforts to assure it remains so in the years ahead. As one step, I have asked for more funds in 1977 for both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and ERDA for reactor safety R&D. I have also requested funds for a major expansion of programs to provide safe, secure, and environmentally acceptable transportation and storage for nuclear wastes. *I believe that the matter of waste disposal has been much exaggerated as a potential problem and that* Third, in January 1975, I activated NRC as an independent regulatory agency for commercial nuclear power. Ensuring the safety of nuclear powerplants is the primary responsibility of that agency. I have increased both the funding and manpower for the NRC so that it has the resources it needs to carry out its important assignments.

Fourth, the question of nuclear safety has been looked at in detail by a number of very competent, objective, and expert people who have expressed great confidence in its safety. Also, my environmental advisers have also told me that they find nuclear energy very acceptable from an environmental point of view.

Finally, I recognize that there are still a number of responsible people in the country that have legitimate concerns and questions about nuclear power. This is quite understandable. We should expect questions about any new technology. It's important that we respond to these questions. I can assure you that the energy and environmental agencies reporting to me will do everything they can to answer questions that come to them. I have every confidence that the independent NRC will also address fully any questions that come to its attention.

there are several approaches which, when implemented, will be found to be satisfactory in dealing with long term waste storage.

NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

CEA

Allen: as requested.
Steve Pellinik

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Give the amount of \$ for the research - the 2% increase over past years

Third, in January 1975, I activated NRC as an independent regulatory agency for commercial nuclear power. Ensuring the safety of nuclear powerplants is the primary responsibility of that agency. I have increased both the funding and manpower for the NRC so that it has the resources it needs to carry out its important assignments.

Tell how much \$ & manpower

Fourth, the question of nuclear safety has been looked at in detail by a number of very competent, objective, and expert people who have expressed great confidence in its safety. Also, my environmental advisers have ~~also~~ told me that they find nuclear energy very acceptable, from an environmental point of view. ~~nuclear power is far less polluting than the only realistic alternative over the next 25 yrs: coal.~~

Add something like: All responsible studies of future energy needs - including Ford funds - conclude that we need to rely on nuclear fission in a major way, even assuming we do everything we can to conserve energy - develop solar, geothermal, fusion, etc.

Finally, I recognize that there are still a number of responsible people in the country that have legitimate concerns and questions about nuclear power. This is quite understandable. We should expect questions about any new technology. It's important that we respond to these questions. I can assure you that the energy and environmental agencies reporting to me will do everything they can to answer questions that come to them. I have every confidence that the independent NRC will also address fully any questions that come to its attention.

If we don't use nuclear power we are going to have to burn more coal. That means stripmining, air pollution, etc.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK DARMAN
FROM: GLENN SCHLEEDE
SUBJECT: Q&A ON NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

Could we please have your comments
and recommendations on the attached
Q&A by Noon on Monday, March 22.

Attachment

Commence

NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

- Q. The people of this state will soon be voting on the question of whether or not to slow down or stop the development of nuclear powerplants. What is your position on this question?
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First
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Third
~~Third~~, in January 1975, I activated ~~NRC~~ ^{the [Spent out]} as an independent regulatory agency for commercial nuclear power. Ensuring the safety of nuclear powerplants is the primary responsibility of that agency. I have increased both the funding and manpower for the NRC so that it has the resources it needs to carry out its important assignments.

Fourth
~~Fourth~~, the question of nuclear safety has been looked at in detail by a number of very competent, objective, and expert people who have expressed great confidence in its safety. ~~Also~~, my environmental advisers have also told me that they find nuclear energy very acceptable from an environmental point of view.

Finally, I recognize that there are still a number of responsible people in the country ~~that~~ ^{who} have legitimate concerns and questions about nuclear power. This is quite understandable. We should expect questions about any new technology. It's important that we respond to these questions. I can assure you that the energy and environmental agencies reporting to me will do everything they can to answer questions that come to them. I have every confidence that the independent NRC will also address fully any questions that come to its attention.

what is essential, given the importance of the issues at stake, is that policy continue to be made -- not on the basis of emotionalism -- but on the basis of responsible info...

continue to

March 22, 1976

F&A

Glenn:

The attached memo has appended to it your original Q&A and my mark-up of it. Rosenberg's people gave me an extensive rewrite*, but I had no time to try to compare the Rosenberg version with mine. Zausner felt my mark-up was OK. Have not heard from Zarb or Hill.

If you can call me on this before 4:30, I would be grateful. I am catching a plane and have to leave at 4:30.

Paul Dragoumis

* See memo attached

FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION

March 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR FRANK G. ZARB

JOHN A. HILL

ERIC R. ZAUSNER

WILLIAM G. ROSENBERG

ORIGINAL SIGNED

FROM:

PAUL DRAGOUMIS BY P. DRAGOUMIS

SUBJECT:

Q&A FOR THE PRESIDENT ON THE CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE

Glenn Schleede has asked me specifically to distribute to you for comment the attached draft Q&A intended for the President's briefing book.

I have taken the liberty of marking my comments on a duplicate copy also attached. Would you please let me know whether my mark-up is satisfactory.

Attachments

PDragoumis/mep/3-18-76/X 6241

cc: Subject File ✓

Reading File



CONCURRENCES

SYMBOL							
SURNAME							
DATE							

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Second, even though we have an excellent safety record, I believe we must continue our efforts to assure it remains so in the years ahead. As one step, I have asked for more funds in 1977 for both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and ERDA for reactor safety R&D. I have also requested funds for a major expansion of programs to provide safe, secure, and environmentally acceptable transportation and storage for nuclear wastes.

Third, in January 1975, I activated NRC as an independent regulatory agency for commercial nuclear power. Ensuring the safety of nuclear powerplants is the primary responsibility of that agency. I have increased both the funding and manpower for the NRC so that it has the resources it needs to carry out its important assignments.

Fourth, the question of nuclear safety has been looked at in detail by a number of very competent, objective, and expert people who have expressed great confidence in its safety. Also, my environmental advisers have also told me that they find nuclear energy very acceptable from an environmental point of view.

Finally, I recognize that there are still a number of responsible people in the country that have legitimate concerns and questions about nuclear power. This is quite understandable. We should expect questions about any new technology. It's important that we respond to these questions. I can assure you that the energy and environmental agencies reporting to me will do everything they can to answer questions that come to them. I have every confidence that the independent NRC will also address fully any questions that come to its attention.

Q. The people of this state will soon be voting on the question of whether or not to slow down or stop the development of nuclear powerplants. What is your position on this question?

A. I don't believe it would be ^{appropriate} ~~proper~~ for me to ^{take a position} ~~attempt to tell~~ the people of this state how to vote on a specific issue ^{such} ~~that will be before you~~ in a state election.

I will share with you my thoughts on the general subject of nuclear power.

First, we are now in the 18th year of commercial nuclear power production in the United States. In total ~~the~~ ^{this} Nation's ~~commercial nuclear plants~~ ^{plant} represents several hundred ^{years of} ~~years of~~ ^{safe} ~~operating~~ experience -- ~~without a~~ ^{without a} single death from a nuclear accident. That's an ~~good~~ ^{good} ~~unexcelled~~ ^{unexcelled} record. ~~The 57 plants now operating are supplying about~~ 9 percent of our electrical power.

Second, ~~even though we have an~~ ^{That this} excellent safety record, ~~I~~ ^{it remains} believe we must continue our efforts to assure ~~it~~ ^{is continued} so in the years ahead. As one step, I have asked for more funds in 1977 for both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and ERDA, for reactor safety R&D. I have also requested funds for a major expansion of programs to provide safe, secure, and environmentally acceptable transportation and storage for nuclear wastes.

Third, in January 1975, I activated NRC as an independent regulatory agency for commercial nuclear power. Ensuring the safety of nuclear powerplants is the primary responsibility of that agency. I have increased both the funding and manpower for the NRC so that it has the resources it needs, ~~to carry out its important assignments.~~

Fourth, ~~the question~~ of nuclear safety has been ~~looked at~~ ^{scrutinized by} in detail by a number of very competent, objective, and expert people who have expressed great confidence ~~in its~~ ^{in further} ~~safety.~~ ^{development of nuclear energy} Also, my environmental advisers have ~~also~~ told me that they find nuclear energy very acceptable from an environmental point of view.

Finally, I recognize that there are still a number of responsible people in the country that have legitimate concerns and questions about nuclear power. This is quite understandable. We should expect questions about any new technology. It's important that we respond to these questions. I can assure you that the energy and environmental agencies reporting to me will do everything they can to answer questions that come to them. I have every confidence that the independent NRC will also address fully any questions that come to its attention. ^{relatively}

Note:
Fifth point added. Shows on attached sheet

Fifth, our studies of the national energy outlook over the next ten years show the need for rapid growth in nuclear energy as well as each of our other domestic fuels if we are to make needed strides toward energy independence.

FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION

*Glenn
Steve Just
One in from
Research
pe*

Date:
Reply to
Attn of:
Subject:
To:

William G. Rosenberg
Assistant Administrator

ERD Comments on Q&A for the President -
on the California Initiative

Paul Dragoumis
Office of Policy and Analysis

Attached is a proposed review of the subject Q&A for the President's briefing book.

ERD's suggested revisions would accomplish three principle changes in the proposed Q&A as follows:

1. Have the President make note of the favorable economics of nuclear power and its current and projected role in the sense of consumer savings, jobs and domestic energy resources.
2. Have the President admit that answers to all questions are not yet in hand and that additional work to answer valid questions is needed and is underway.
3. On the other hand, have the President note that we cannot expect a totally risk free future and that perfect answers to all postulated questions is not possible before proceeding.

We hope these suggestions are responsive to the input requested by OMB. If there is need for further input from ERD, please contact Bob Hanfling directly.

This specific OMB request for input to the President's briefing book would suggest the preparation of other similar Q&A's relative to the California Initiative. For example, (1) plans for FEA testimony before the California assembly; (2) the University of Texas Study of the possible effects of this initiative; (3) the role FEA or the Administration expects to play relative to the public debate on nuclear power, or (4) a more general statement on State/Federal cooperation on the resolution of domestic energy resource development decisions.

If such additional Q&A's are desired by OMB, we are most willing to participate in their preparation.

Attachment

cc: Frank Zarb
John Hill
Eric Zausner

NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

ERD PROPOSED REVISION

Q. The people of this state will soon be voting on the question of whether or not to slow down or stop the development of nuclear powerplants. What is your position on this question?

A. I don't believe it would be appropriate for me to take a position on a specific issue such as this in a State election.

I will share with you my general thoughts on nuclear power.

First, we are now in the 18th year of commercial nuclear power production in the United States. In total this Nation has recorded several hundred plant years of safe and economic operating experience. The 57 plants now operating are supplying about 9 percent of our electrical power. In 1975 these plants saved consumers more than \$_____ in their electricity bills. These savings are expected to improve as more plants come into operation.

Second, to date the safety record of the nuclear industry has been better than any other industry in history. While we can take pride in this unparalleled achievement, we must not rest on our current successes. We must extend these efforts to assure continuance of this safety record. Accordingly, in January 1975 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was established as an independent agency responsible for assuring the future safety of commercial nuclear power plants.

Third, to support this effort, I have increased both the funding and manpower for the NRC so that it has the resources it needs to carry out its important assignment. In addition, I have requested funds for a major expansion of programs by the Energy Research and Development Administration in nuclear reactor safety and to provide safe, secure and environmentally acceptable transportation and storage for nuclear wastes.

Fourth, nuclear safety has been scrutinized by many competent, objective and expert people. They strongly support the safety aspects of nuclear power and recommend expanded use of this valuable domestic energy resource. In addition my environmental advisors note that nuclear power is one of the least environmentally damaging major current energy resources.

Fifth, our studies of the national energy outlook show the need for growth in nuclear energy as well as our other domestic fuels if we are to make needed strides toward energy independence and provide adequate energy resources at the low prices needed to maintain the Nation's employment levels.

Finally, I recognize that there are a significant number of responsible and sincere people in the country that have concerns and questions about nuclear power. We should expect questions about any relatively new technology. It is important that we both respond to these questions to the best of our capability and undertake those further steps needed to assure that satisfactory responses to valid questions are forthcoming. On the other hand, I do not believe it is in our Nation's best interest to wait for the perfect or ultimate answers to all postulated questions before proceeding. Such an approach could bring our society and economy to a standstill. I can assure you that this Administration's energy and environmental agencies will continue to do everything they can to answer questions that come to them in an open and candid manner.

EYES ONLY

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Glenn
March 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: WILLIAM ANDERS
FROM: *Glenn* GLENN SCHLEEDE
SUBJECT: Q&A ON NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

May we please have your comments and recommendations for improvement on the attached Q&A by COB, Friday, March 19.

A telephone response will be fine. Thanks.

Attachment

Great
Bill

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

EYES ONLY



NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

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Second, even though we have an excellent safety record, I believe we must continue our efforts to assure it remains so in the years ahead. As one step, I have asked for more funds in 1977 for both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and ERDA for reactor safety R&D. I have also requested funds for a major expansion of programs to provide safe, secure, and environmentally acceptable transportation and storage for nuclear wastes.

Third, in January 1975, I activated NRC as an independent regulatory agency for commercial nuclear power. Ensuring the safety of nuclear powerplants is the primary responsibility of that agency. I have increased both the funding and manpower for the NRC so that it has the resources it needs to carry out its important assignments.

Fourth, the question of nuclear safety has been looked at in detail by a number of very competent, objective, and expert people who have expressed great confidence in its safety. Also, my environmental advisers have also told me that they find nuclear energy very acceptable from an environmental point of view.

Finally, I recognize that there are still a number of responsible people in the country that have legitimate concerns and questions about nuclear power. This is quite understandable. We should expect questions about any new technology. It's important that we respond to these questions. I can assure you that the energy and environmental agencies reporting to me will do everything they can to answer questions that come to them. I have every confidence that the independent NRC will also address fully any questions that come to its attention.

NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

EPA

Stegm
Beckno.

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my environmental advisers inform me

Second, even though we have an excellent safety record, I believe we must continue our efforts to assure it remains so in the years ahead. As one step, I have asked for more funds in 1977 for both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and ERDA for reactor safety R&D. I have also requested funds for a major expansion of programs to provide safe, secure, and environmentally acceptable transportation and storage for nuclear wastes.

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Fourth, the question of nuclear safety has been looked at in detail by a number of ~~very~~ competent, objective, and expert people who have expressed ~~great~~ confidence in its safety. ~~[Also, my environmental advisers have also told me that they find nuclear energy very acceptable from an environmental point of view.]~~

Finally, I recognize that there are still a number of responsible people in the country that have legitimate concerns and questions about nuclear power. This is quite understandable. We should expect questions about any new technology. It's important that we respond to these questions. I can assure you that the energy and environmental agencies reporting to me will do everything they can to answer questions that come to them. I have every confidence that the independent NRC will also address fully any questions that come to its attention.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

March 23, 1976

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GLENN SCHLEEDE
Domestic Council

SUBJECT: Draft Q & A

Attached is a written version of the suggested revision of the Q&A on nuclear power. I phoned these to Karen this morning.

As we discussed, we do not believe that the Administrator would be willing to stand behind the final sentence in paragraph 6 in your draft.

We believe he would be supportive of the additional clause added at the end of paragraph 3.


Steffen W. Plehn
Executive Assistant
to the Administrator

Attachment

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- A. I don't believe it would be proper for me to attempt to tell the people of this state how to vote on a specific issue that will be before you in a State election.

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First, we are now in the 18th year of commercial nuclear power production in the United States. In total the Nation's commercial nuclear plants represent several hundred years of operating experience -- without a single death from a nuclear accident. That's a good record. The 57 plants now operating are supplying about 9 percent of our electrical power and, my environmental advisors inform me, with far less pollution of the air than combustion of fossil fuels.

Second, even though we have an excellent safety record, I believe we must continue our efforts to assure it remains so in the years ahead. As one step, I have asked for more funds in 1977 for both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and ERDA for reactor safety R&D. I have also requested funds for a major expansion of programs to provide safe, secure, and environmentally acceptable transportation and storage for nuclear wastes.

Third, in January 1975, I activated NRC as an independent regulatory agency for commercial nuclear power. Ensuring the safety of nuclear powerplants is the primary responsibility of that agency. I have increased both the funding and manpower for the NRC so that it has the resources it needs to carry out its important assignments. NRC will implement the environmental standards being developed by EPA.

Fourth, the question of nuclear safety has been looked at in detail by a number of (very) competent, objective, and expert people who have expressed (great) confidence in its safety.

Finally, I recognize that there are still a number of responsible people in the country that have legitimate concerns and questions about nuclear power. This is quite understandable. We should expect questions about any new technology. It's important that we respond to these questions. I can assure you that the energy and environmental agencies reporting to me will do everything they can to answer questions that come to them. I have every confidence that the independent NRC will also address fully any questions that come to its attention.

Seidman

do everything they can to answer questions that come to them. I have every confidence that the independent NRC will also fully address any questions that come to its attention.

Finally, if we are to gain energy independence, we must have the availability of nuclear power. Our challenge is to ~~have~~ that is obtaining this

~~source~~ of develop this source of power in a manner that protects lives and environment.

that problem

B

NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

- Q. The people of this State will soon be voting on the question of whether or not to slow down or stop the development of nuclear powerplants. What is your position on this question?
- A. I don't believe it would be proper for me to attempt to tell the people of this State how to vote on a specific issue that will be before you in a State election.

I will share with you my thoughts on the general subject of nuclear power.

First, we are now in the 18th year of commercial nuclear power production in the United States. In total the Nation's commercial nuclear plants represent several hundred plant years of operating experience -- without a single death from a nuclear accident. That's a good record.

Second, even though we have an excellent safety record, I believe we must continue our efforts to assure it remains so in the years ahead. As one step, I have asked for more funds in 1977 for both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and ERDA for reactor safety R&D. I have also requested funds for a major expansion of programs to provide safe, secure, and environmentally acceptable transportation and storage for nuclear wastes.

Third, in January 1975, I activated NRC as an independent regulatory agency for commercial nuclear power. Ensuring the safety of nuclear powerplants is the primary responsibility of that agency. I have increased both the funding and manpower for the NRC so that it has the resources it needs.

Fourth, the question of safety has been looked at in detail by a number of competent, objective, and expert people who have expressed confidence in the safety of nuclear plants. Also, my environmental advisers have also told me that nuclear energy is preferable from an environmental point of view.

Fifth, the 57 plants now operating are supplying about 9 percent of our nation's electrical power. Generating this amount of power with oil-fired plants would mean increasing our oil imports by about 1 million barrels per day. Thus nuclear power is already making a substantial contribution to our energy needs. Also, the cost of electricity from nuclear plants is much less than from oil-fired plants.

Finally, I recognize that there are still a number of responsible people in the country that have legitimate concerns and questions about nuclear power. This is quite understandable. We should expect questions about technologies that are just achieving wide-scale application. It's important that we respond to these questions. I can assure you that the energy and environmental agencies reporting to me will do everything they can to answer questions that come to them. I have every confidence that the independent NRC will also address fully any questions that come to its attention.



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 20, 1976

Handwritten notes:
you
B
1976
BICENTENNIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CANNON

FROM: JACK VENEMAN 

Has anything ever been done to set up
a meeting with the California delegation?

Handwritten notes:
Jack - No. And in fact, we had to brief
the ~~when~~ meeting before his
worse. Ron left to California - nobody
the trip in California asked him
about it - neither
Hans

Hans
Hans Mark



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
AMES RESEARCH CENTER
MOFFETT FIELD, CALIFORNIA 94035



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: D: 200-1

April 16, 1976

Mr. John G. Veneman
Counselor to the Vice President
Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20501



Dear Jack:

Many thanks for your note and for a copy of the enclosed remarks by the President on the California Nuclear Safeguards Initiative. It is a good statement, but as far as I know it has received no publicity at all in California. Perhaps this is unavoidable given the President's schedule, but I really believe that he should take some time out to help us in our fight to prevent Proposition 15 from being passed.

I continue to believe that on a complex technical issue such as this one, people will tend to follow the political leaders they trust. It is therefore most important for us first to convince trusted political leaders that Proposition 15 is wrong, and second, to make certain that the political leaders then get the message across to their constituents. What you have sent shows me that in the case of the President we have achieved the first objective, but not yet the second.

I still believe that it is most important for the President to work with the California Congressional Delegation and get together with them as soon as possible to discuss this very important issue. There is a real chance that we will lose the game unless this happens, and happens soon.

I have a couple of public debates on TV lined up in the next few weeks, so I should at some point have a better feeling for what people think. I will let you know how things go.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Haus

Hans Mark

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON
JIM CONNOR
FROM: GLENN SCHLEEDE
SUBJECT: EPA REVIEW OF THE RASMUSSEN REPORT ON
NUCLEAR SAFETY

Both of you have mentioned this subject over the last few weeks so I am taking the liberty of a single memo to give you my understanding of where the matter stands.

Briefly, I think there is a potential that the EPA activity could have an impact on the nuclear debate in California.

- The Rasmussen Report is the product of an extensive study initiated and sponsored by the AEC and then continued by the NRC of the potential incidence and consequence of nuclear reactor accidents. (Rasmussen is a MIT professor hired as a consultant to lead the study.) The study was issued in final form several months ago after first being put out in draft for comment.
- My understanding of EPA's involvement and plans are as follows:
 - o EPA was either invited to or had volunteered to testify at hearings scheduled for about June 10 before Udall's Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee. EPA -- at least the lead man on radiation, Bill Rowe -- will testify.

5/31/76
Glenn
Nuclear Energy
What is the question now?
JS

- ° EPA has been engaged in a review of the Rasmussen Report. Apparently, Rowe and or his staff take exception to some of the conclusions in the report. More specifically that the report:
 - underestimates by a factor between 3 and 5 the number of people effected by an accident by making optimistic assumptions regarding evacuation rates;
 - underestimates by a factor of 2 the long-term health effects due to low level radiation exposure; and
 - does not address all of the issues previously raised by EPA. (Not clear what these are.)
- ° Apparently Rowe does not intend to surface the EPA analysis prior to June 11, but Rowe expects to have in his hands by about June 28 a draft of the analysis.
- ° It would not be unusual for the EPA draft analysis to find its way into the press. The EPA draft analysis could impact the June 8 moratorium vote.
- ° OMB staff, under Jim Mitchell, apparently have looked into this matter but may not have come up with a solution. I understand they have encouraged EPA to discuss their analysis with the NRC prior to going public.

Nuclear

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Request

June 7, 1976

File

TO: JIM CANNON
FROM: *Glenn* GLENN SCHLEEDE

The attached is in response to your
May 31 request.



JUN 11 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON
JIM CONNOR

FROM: GLENN SCHLEEDE

SUBJECT: EPA REVIEW OF THE RASMUSSEN REPORT ON
NUCLEAR SAFETY

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5/31/76
Glenn
What is situation now?

EPA REVIEW OF RASMUSSEN REPORT
ON NUCLEAR SAFETY

Status as of 10:00 A.M., June 7

- NRC Review. NRC staff members, lead by Mr. Saul Levine, started late last week a review of the EPA critique of the Rasmussen report. EPA would not allow NRC to take the report away for a review, so the review was occurring in EPA offices. Late Friday afternoon, June 4, the NRC team was told that the review would have to be discontinued until work resumed on Monday. Apparently an appeal was made to the Office of the Administrator at EPA and this condition was reversed, allowing the review to continue over the weekend.

- NRC Staff Views of EPA Report. Informally, I understand that the NRC review group:
 - believes the EPA report to be substantively deficient and in error in some places;
 - believes the conclusions would be incorrect;
 - is concerned that the report, when made public, will be perceived as a significant technical contribution and used as an argument that nuclear power plants are not as safe as the Rasmussen report concluded;
 - recognizes that the EPA radiation staff, lead by Mr. Bill Rowe, is very unhappy about having the NRC review the EPA report before it is made public;
 - is concerned that the EPA staff may charge that EPA has been subjected to pressure concerning the report.

- EPA's Plans for Next Steps.
 - Place their report in the EPA public documents room on Thursday, June 10.
 - Rowe will testify on the review before the Udall subcommittee of House Interior. (NRC will also testify.)

- OMB Plans.
 - Anticipates reviewing draft EPA testimony tomorrow and NRC testimony shortly thereafter.

- Plans to hold a meeting with EPA and NRC staff to review the testimony and probably to discuss differences of opinion on the EPA report.

-- NRC Activities.

- NRC staff is preparing a written critique of the EPA report.
- Saul Levine has offered to sit down with Bill Rowe of EPA to discuss the draft EPA report.

-- Possible Next Steps

- Promoting an early meeting between NRC Chairman Rowden and Mr. Train on the report.
- Suggest to NRC that they be prepared to make public their criticism of the EPA report at the same time the EPA report becomes public.