

**The original documents are located in Box 25, folder “Nuclear Safety - Meeting with the President, March 25, 1976” of the James M. Cannon Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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

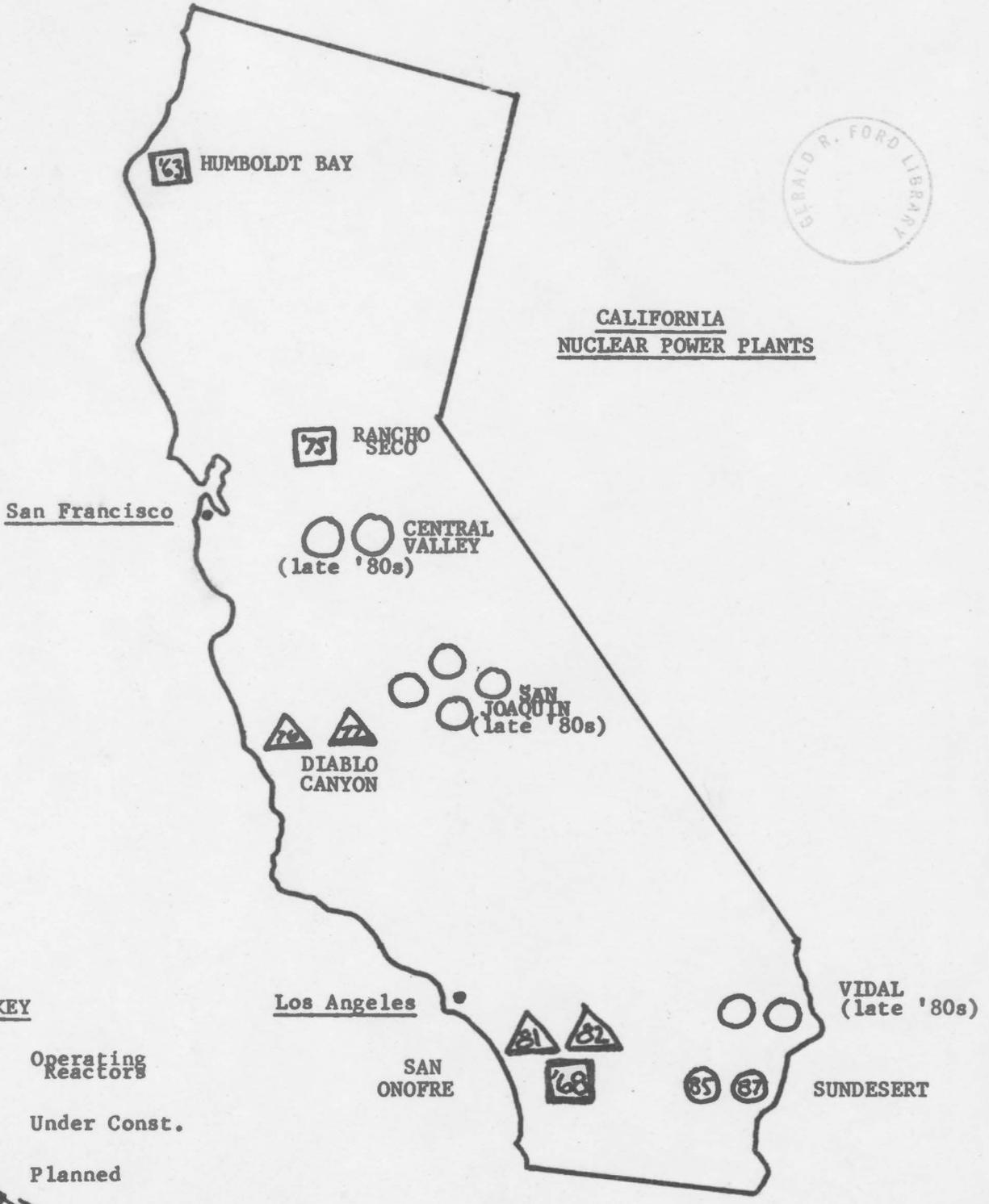
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is text  
& maintenance



[March 1976]



CALIFORNIA  
NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS



San Francisco

CENTRAL VALLEY  
(late '80s)

SAN JOAQUIN  
(late '80s)

DIABLO CANYON

Los Angeles

SAN ONOFRE

VIDAL  
(late '80s)

SUNDESERT

KEY



Operating Reactors



Under Const.



Planned

Operational Date

[March 1976]

# STATUS OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS — FEB. 29, 1976

<u>Number Of Units</u>	<u>Rated Capacity (MWe)</u>
* 57 LICENSED TO OPERATE.....	40,000
** 70 CONSTRUCTION PERMIT GRANTED.....	72,000
25 Under Operating License Review.....	24,000
45 Operating License Not Yet Applied For.....	48,000
71 UNDER CONSTRUCTION PERMIT REVIEW.....	78,000
** 16 Site Work Authorized, Safety Review in Process.....	16,000
55 Other Units Under CP Review.....	62,000
19 ORDERED.....	22,000
19 PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED.....	24,000
<b>236 TOTAL .....</b>	<b>236,000</b>

\* In addition, there are two operable ERDA-owned reactors with a combined capacity of 940 MWe.

\*\*Total of units under construction (Construction Permit Granted plus Site Work Authorized ):  
86 units, 88,000 MWe.



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

March 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CANNON

FROM: JACK VENEMAN

SUBJECT: California Land Use, Nuclear Power  
Liability, and Safeguards Act

cc: The Vice President

Background

Anti-nuclear initiatives or bills are now pending in 22 states, including California. Oregon and Vermont enacted legislation restricting nuclear power in 1975. Massachusetts failed to pass an anti-nuclear initiative. Most of these efforts have been stimulated by the Nader organization.

The California initiative, Proposition 15 (The Land Use, Nuclear Power Liability and Safeguards Act), will be on the primary ballot on June 8. Proponents of nuclear power maintain that if California passes the initiative it could set a trend in other states.

California Act's Provisions

The major provisions of the initiative are as follows:

- Unless the Federally imposed limit of \$560 million on the industry's liability is removed in the course of a year, construction of nuclear plants would be stopped and existing plants limited to 60 percent of their capacity. For each additional year the liability limits are not removed, another 10 percent would be cut from the capacity of existing plants until they are phased out completely.



- It is unlikely that Congress will remove the liability limitation.
- By 1981, the problem of nuclear waste disposal must be solved and the effectiveness of all safety systems must be tested under operating conditions to the satisfaction of two-thirds of each house of the California legislature.
- Failing that, new plant construction would be banned and existing plants held to 60 percent of capacity. If the condition persisted, an additional 10 percent would be cut from plant capacity each year.

### Poll Results

A California statewide poll in December 1975 by the Field Research Corporation found that 45 percent of voters were aware of the initiative (a relatively high awareness level); 19 percent were for the initiative; 18 percent were against the initiative; 8 percent were undecided; and 55 percent were unfamiliar.

### Arguments of Proponents of Proposition 15

- The main argument of those opposing the construction of nuclear plants is that nuclear energy is dangerous and its expansion must be curtailed until impartial testing proves it safe.
- If tests demonstrate nuclear power to be unsafe, opponents argue that the gap can be closed by emphasis on coal, solar, geothermal, and fusion power, together with conservation measures.
- Among the proponents of Provision 15 are: Californians for Nuclear Safeguards, Friends of the Earth, Inc., the Sierra Club, Nader groups, Project Survival, and the Creative Initiative Foundation. The last two groups are the result of a quasi-religious awareness organization in Berkeley, California



Arguments of the Opponents of Proposition 15

- Main argument is that Proposition 15 could shut down nuclear power plants, resulting in increased unemployment for energy-short industries.
- Frederick W. Mielke, Jr., Vice President of Pacific Gas and Electric Co., estimates that the initiative would cost the public at least \$8.5 billion (\$20 billion in inflationary dollars) over the next 20 years.
- Citizens for Jobs and Energy, an organization coordinating the anti-initiative campaign has strong labor support. Among its seven co-chairmen is the former Democratic Governor Pat Brown. Most major corporations and labor organizations are in opposition. California AFL-CIO has adopted a resolution against Proposition 15.

Recommendation

The Administration is on record in support of the development of nuclear power, as indicated in the proposal for energy independence which calls for the construction of 200 plants by 1985. Support is also demonstrated in the proposed Nuclear Fuel Assistance Act and the Energy Independence Authority.

For the President to take a strong stand in opposition to the California initiative could backfire. The proponents could charge the Administration with interfering with decisions that are primarily a state responsibility. Also, there is a growing popular concern over nuclear reactor safety, and the strong rejection of the initiative could be interpreted by some as insensitivity to the safety issue.

The following scenario could be a recommended course of action.

1. There are at least seven members of the California Congressional delegation who have announced their opposition to Proposition 15 (McFall, Moss, Goldwater, Jr., McCloskey, Mineta, Talcott, Tunney). The President could invite them to a meeting at the White House to discuss the issue and indicate his concern. He could offer to provide the members with information that would support their position. This would keep the issue on the state level.
2. The President could somewhat disarm initiative proponents by announcing a commission comprised of members with a cross section of views, to review the safety criteria for existing and proposed nuclear plants. This would put the President on the offensive with a posture conveying concern for public safety without calling for an end to nuclear construction.





OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1976

*Handwritten:* would  
for nuclear  
safety  
meeting

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CANNON

FROM: JACK VENEMAN *and for you*

SUBJECT: California Land Use, Nuclear Power  
Liability, and Safeguards Act--  
Possible California Congressional  
Delegation Meeting with the President

Subsequent to my memo of yesterday, I learned of additional members of the California delegation who reportedly oppose Proposition 15.

The following Republicans and Democrats should be added to the possible invitees listed in yesterday's memo:

Democrats

Robert L. Leggett  
Leo J. Ryan  
B. F. Sisk  
Thomas M. Rees  
George E. Danielson  
James F. Lloyd  
Harold T. (Biz) Johnson

Republicans

Carlos J. Moorhead  
John H. Rousselot  
Alphonzo Bell  
Del Clawson  
William M. Ketchum  
Bob Wilson  
Charles E. Wiggins  
Clair W. Burgener  
Don H. Clausen

In addition, I would recommend that the President invite all California Republican Congressmen.

cc: The Vice President

MAR 8 1976





OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

March 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CANNON

FROM: JACK VENEMAN

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Veneman', written over the printed name 'JACK VENEMAN'.

Thought you might be interested in the attached letter from Hans Mark which relates to our conversation regarding the California nuclear initiative.

Attachment





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



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: D: 200-1

March 4, 1976

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



Dear Jack:

This is to follow up our telephone conversation yesterday regarding actions that the President might take on the California Nuclear Initiative.

I am firmly convinced that the President must do something. However, I also believe that a statement right now originating in Washington that the President is opposed to the passage of the Initiative would be used against us here in California by the proponents of the Initiative. Furthermore, I believe that a statement by the President of this type would not be consistent with the general philosophy he has expressed in his campaign speeches regarding the importance of local options in making important decisions. What I believe the President should do is to meet with elected officials in California who have publicly taken positions against the Nuclear Initiative and ask them how he can best help. I will keep sending you updated lists of people who have either publicly made statements about the Initiative or who strongly lean in the direction of opposing the Initiative. If this group of elected officials advises the President to make a statement, well and good, but I believe it should be done only after consultation with a group of local political leaders.

A second point that should be considered is that the Nuclear Safeguards Initiative will be on the ballot during the Presidential Primary in June. Thus, people who are candidates in the California Primary will probably be required to take positions on the Initiative in one way or another. I believe that it would help, for example, if all the major candidates for the Presidential nomination from both parties took positions against the Nuclear Safeguards Initiative. I believe that Mr. Reagan plans to oppose the Initiative publicly during the primary election. I think it would be important for the President at that time, when he campaigns in California,

to make appropriate statements against the Nuclear Initiative. Furthermore, I believe it would be important if statements opposing the Nuclear Initiative could be coordinated with at least some of the Democratic candidates. I don't know exactly who will be on the ballot, but my feeling is that Messrs. Jackson, Carter, and Wallace could easily be persuaded to make statements opposing the Nuclear Safeguards Initiative. I don't know what position other potential candidates might take, but it is possible that at least some of them could be persuaded. Perhaps I am naive in believing that this can be done, but it does seem to me that the Safeguards Initiative is a nonpartisan issue.

In addition to statements by political leaders, I also believe it to be important that a good investigative reporting story on the Creative Initiatives Foundation appear in one of the State's major newspapers. As I have already said, this is a rather interesting and influential organization and I believe that the voters of California should know who the people are that are leading the opposition to nuclear power. I think it is important to understand what their reasons are and what the philosophical background of the opposition to nuclear power really is.

Finally, I thought you might be interested in the results of a Field Poll that I saw on the news last night. 54% of California voters now are aware that an Initiative concerning nuclear power is on the ballot. This is a substantial increase from the number that was obtained a few months ago. The Field Organization then divided this 54% into two groups. To the first group, they showed the proposed statements about the Initiative that will appear on the ballot. 48% of this sample favored the Initiative, 42% opposed it, and the rest were undecided. The second group saw not only the statements on the ballot but also the arguments for and against the Initiative. In the second group, 52% opposed the Initiative, 40% were in favor, and the remainder were undecided. It is obviously important, therefore, to conduct a wide-ranging debate on this issue. If people are exposed to the arguments, I believe that the Initiative will fail.

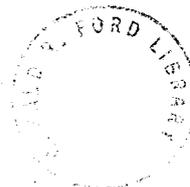
I appreciate very much the opportunity that you have given me to discuss these questions with you and you can count on me to do anything I can to help in this very important struggle.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Hans*

Hans Mark



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON  
FROM: GLENN E. SCHLEEDE  
SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA NUCLEAR INITIATIVE

There's one good bit of news in the attached letter from Hans Mark to Jack Veneman; i.e., a Field Poll reported on March 3 indicates that:

- . 54 percent of the California voters are now aware of the nuclear power initiatives that will be on the ballot in June.
- . Further questioning of the 54 percent -- which were divided into two groups -- showed that:
  - One group -- which was shown only the Initiative as it will appear on the ballot -- came out:
    - 48 percent favored the initiative (cut back on nuclear power).
    - 42 opposed it.
    - Remainder undecided.
  - The other group -- which was shown the Initiative and the arguments for and against it -- came out:
    - 40 percent in favor of the initiative (cut back on nuclear power).
    - 52 percent opposed to it.
    - Remainder undecided.



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

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF:

D: 200-1

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Dr. Glenn Schleede

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I appreciate very much the opportunity that you have given me to discuss these questions with you and you can count on me to do anything I can to help in this very important struggle.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Original signed by

Hans Mark

Hans Mark



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 9, 1976

NOTE TO: BOB FRI  
FROM: *Glenn* GLENN SCHEEDE

You may be interested in the attached letters from the staff of the California Fair Political Practices Commission which concludes that:

- A recent FEA contract with the University of Texas "was made with the intent to influence voters of California to vote against Proposition Fifteen (Nuclear Power Plants Initiative)."
- FEA must report its expenditures to the Commission.

I understand that FEA will appeal the staff decision.

cc: ✓ Jim Cannon  
Jack Veneman



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JAMES CANNON

FROM: WILLIAM W. NICHOLSON *WWN*

SUBJECT: Approved Presidential Activity

Please take the necessary steps to implement the following and confirm with Mrs. Nell Yates, ext. 2699. The appropriate briefing paper should be submitted to Dr. David Hoopes by 4:00 p.m. of the preceding day.

Meeting: With the Domestic Council

Date: Thurs., March 25, '76 Time: 11:00 a.m. Duration: 30 mins.

Location:

Press Coverage:

Purpose: To discuss nuclear power with principal energy and political advisers and to receive a current report and decide on a posture on State nuclear power moratorium issues.

cc: Mr. Cheney  
Mr. Hartmann  
Mr. Marsh  
Dr. Connor  
Dr. Hoopes  
Mr. Nessen  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Smith  
Mr. O'Donnell  
Mrs. Yates  
Mr. Morton



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 24, 1976

*Tab B*

MEMORANDUM FOR: JIM CANNON  
FROM: *Glenn Schleede*  
          GLENN SCHLEEDE  
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR MORATORIUM

Here is the latest count on State initiatives and legislation. 26 States are involved. 21 have initiatives or legislation under active consideration. Legislation or referenda failed in the other 5 states in 1975 and currently appear dormant.

In the 21 states with more active consideration, legislation -- rather than ballot initiatives -- are by far the predominant approach.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 24, 1976

MEETING ON THE STATUS OF NUCLEAR POWER  
Thursday, March 25, 1976  
11:00 a.m. (30 minutes)  
The Cabinet Room

From: Jim Cannon



I. PURPOSE

To receive a status report on nuclear power, prior to your trip to California where a nuclear moratorium issue will be on the June 8 ballot.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background

Frank Zarb's memorandum at Tab A provides details on the issue that will be on the California ballot and on efforts underway by proponents and opponents. Briefly:

- The California initiative would prohibit new nuclear plant construction and reduce power levels of existing plants--unless the state legislature by a two-thirds vote affirms within five years the effectiveness of safety systems and waste disposal methods.
- Anti-nuclear groups in more than 20 other states are attempting to impose restrictions on nuclear power (Tab B).
- Federal officials' activities with respect to the initiative in California are limited because (a) Federal credibility is not great, and (b) Federal involvement in a state election issue may be counterproductive.

The principal issues are:

- nuclear plant safety
- nuclear waste disposal
- physical protection of nuclear plants and nuclear materials.

Your advisers will be prepared to discuss these issues.

You made a strong statement on nuclear power during an interview in San Francisco on September 22, 1975. (Copy of the exchange is at Tab C.)

Your latest comprehensive statement on nuclear power was included in your February 26 Energy Message to Congress. (Copy of nuclear portion at Tab D).

Secretary Richardson recently established a Nuclear Steering Group as a subgroup of the Energy Resources Council, to promote coordination among agencies involved in nuclear energy, and to develop "white papers" that could be issued publicly on each of the principal nuclear power issues: safety, waste management, safeguards, adequacy of uranium supply, etc.--as one attempt to raise the level of debate.

B. Suggested Q & A

We have developed a suggested Q & A (attached at Tab E) for your current trip.

C. Participants

See Tab F.

D. Press Plan

White House Photographer. To be announced as a meeting with energy advisers to provide an update on the status of nuclear power.

III. TALKING POINTS

- Frank (Zarb), would you give us a brief summary of the nuclear power issue as it is shaping up in California.
- Bill (Anders) and Marc (Rowden), you and your fellow Commissioners have faced a searching review of safety and other nuclear questions over the past few weeks. Would you tell us where things really stand with respect to safety and safeguards?
- Bob (Fri), ERDA has the lead in developing acceptable long-term nuclear waste management arrangements. What is the status and outlook?
- Russ (Peterson), how does nuclear power compare with other ways of generating electricity, from an environmental viewpoint? (Peterson is more favorably disposed toward nuclear power than Train).
- Russ (Train), what are your views?
- Jack (Veneman) and John (Busterud), both of you are from California and former members of the State legislature. What are your assessments of the outlook for the California initiative?





FEDERAL ENERGY ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20461

March 23, 1976

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRANK G. ZARB *FZ*

SUBJECT: THE CALIFORNIA NUCLEAR INITIATIVE

The Initiative

- o The June 1976 California statewide ballot will include the Nuclear Power Plants Initiative which, if enacted, would probably limit if not preclude nuclear power in the State. Passage would also provide impetus to the passage of similar legislation in a number of other states.
- o Specifically, the California Initiative would (a) prohibit new plant construction and derate power levels of existing plants unless federal liability limits are removed, and (b) prohibit new plants and require additional derating of existing plants by 10% annually, unless the legislature by a two thirds vote within 5 years affirms the effectiveness of safety systems and waste disposal methods.
- o The Initiative is supported by several coalitions of local and national anti-nuclear groups. "Citizens for Jobs and Energy," chaired by former Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, opposes the initiative. The group includes utilities, labor unions, industry, and individuals.

- o A field poll reported on March 3 indicated that 54% of California voters are aware of the initiative. Of the group polled:
  - One subgroup, shown only the initiative, was in favor of this anti-nuclear proposal by a 48% to 42% margin.
  - Another subgroup was shown the initiative and pro/con arguments. Fifty-two percent of this subgroup then opposed the initiative.
- o Senator Tunney and seven California members of the House have taken public stands against this anti-nuclear initiative. One House member is publicly for it.
- o California imports more than 50% of its total energy and 12% of its electricity from other states. About 10% of California's electricity is generated by nuclear power from three nuclear generating stations. Ten more units are in licensing or under construction.

#### Relevant Actions by Federal Agencies

- o Actions by Federal agencies respecting the initiative are highly limited because:
  - Federal agency involvement in a State referendum could be counterproductive.
  - Federal credibility is not great.
- o FEA has sponsored a University of Texas study, due in May, of the economic, social and environmental consequences on California and neighboring states of a California nuclear curtailment. ERDA has sponsored two analogous studies.

- o A Committee of the California House (The Warren Committee) held hearings on the Initiative late last year. FEA, ERDA, and NRC testified on invitation.
- o Bob Seamans and I are invited to appear before the Warren Committee in the spring.

Situation in Other States

- o Moratorium legislation or initiative activity affecting nuclear power is pending or was proposed in 1975 in 22 other states.

Your Position

- o Your latest comprehensive statement on nuclear power was included in your February 26 Energy Message to the Congress. The nuclear section of that message is attached as Tab A.

Attachment

OTHER STATES CONSIDERING  
RESTRICTIONS ON NUCLEAR POWER

MORE ACTIVE CONSIDERATION

<u>Colorado</u>	Signatures being collected to meet April 3 deadline to get issue on ballot.
<u>Delaware</u>	Nuclear moratorium bills introduced last year carried over to 1976 legislative session.
<u>Hawaii</u>	Legislation similar to California initiative being considered in 1976 legislature.
<u>Illinois</u>	Shoreline siting restriction legislation carried over to 1976 legislative session.
<u>Iowa</u>	Nuclear moratorium and nuclear plant legislation carried over to 1976 legislative session.
<u>Kansas</u>	Legislation to require State approval of nuclear plants carried over to 1976 legislative session.
<u>Maine</u>	Initiative will go to legislature in January 1977. Bill to require State approval of plants voted down by legislature in 1975.
<u>Massachusetts</u>	Land use and nuclear power liability bill failed on a 1975 ballot. Safeguards legislation reintroduced in 1976.
<u>Michigan</u>	Moratorium legislation introduced in 1975 for 1976 session.
<u>Minnesota</u>	Moratorium legislation voted down in Minnesota senate. House will consider in 1976.
<u>Nebraska</u>	Moratorium legislation reintroduced in 1976 legislature.
<u>New York</u>	Nuclear moratorium legislation and other restrictions on nuclear facilities carried over to 1976 session.

<u>Ohio</u>	Legislation requiring legislative approval of plants being considered in current session.
<u>Oklahoma</u>	Nuclear moratorium lost in 1975 referendum. Initiative petition being circulated for signatures.
<u>Oregon</u>	Moratorium legislation failed to pass in 1975. Initiative scheduled for November 1976 ballot.
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	Moratorium legislation introduced in 1975 for 1976 session.
<u>Vermont</u>	Law requiring State approval of plants enacted in 1975. Moratorium legislation carried over to 1976 session.
<u>Virginia</u>	Legislation requiring General Assembly approval of new nuclear plants was introduced in the 1976 session.
<u>Washington</u>	Moratorium legislation carried over to 1976 session.
<u>West Virginia</u>	Nuclear moratorium legislation introduced in 1976 legislature.
<u>Wisconsin</u>	Moratorium legislation carried over to 1976 session.
<u>LESS ACTIVE CONSIDERATION</u>	
<u>Connecticut</u>	Legislation and referendum considered in 1975. Currently appears dormant.
<u>Indiana</u>	Moratorium legislation failed in the House in 1975. Currently appears dormant.
<u>Missouri</u>	Moratorium legislation failed in the Senate in 1975. Currently dormant.
<u>Montana</u>	Moratorium legislation failed in 1975. Currently dormant.
<u>Rhode Island</u>	Nuclear plant approval legislation -- intended to correct defective legislation passed in 1974 -- passed by legislature but was vetoed in 1975.

EXCHANGE WITH SID DAVIS, KPIX TV, SAN FRANCISCO  
DURING AN INTERVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1975

QUESTION

Mr. President, today in a speech you said that you envision some 200 nuclear power plants by the year 1985. Here in California, enough citizens are concerned about the safety and disposal problems of these plants to have put an issue on the ballot in June to ban the construction of them. How do you feel about the safety problem and about the disposal problem?

ANSWER

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which was established by the Congress last year and which is now in operation and the Energy Research and Development Organization which was likewise established by the Congress, both are in the process of studying safety, nuclear power development, etc.

So far, I believe that the overwhelming preponderance of the evidence indicates, one, that we have a safe nuclear power capability and, furthermore, that if there are any serious questions, that the further research and development will result in even a higher degree of safety, better safeguards.

I think in light of our serious, almost critical energy shortage that it is unwise for any State to ban the development and the utilization of nuclear power in the future.

We expect to build 250 nuclear power plants, as I recall, in the next ten years. If 49 other States do it, I can imagine there would be a serious adverse economic impact on the State of California. It would potentially -- I don't say certainly, but potentially -- interfere with the economic development of the great State of California. It would mean the loss of potential jobs as we need more jobs for the young people, for others.

I think there is a better approach than arbitrary ban because the safety record so far and the prognostications of responsible people indicate to me, at least, that the danger is not a serious one, and if there are any problems, they can be resolved.

PARTICIPANTS IN INTERVIEW

Sid Davis, the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company, San Borman,  
Belva Davis, Jennie Grimm, and Lynn Joiner KPIX TV

## Nuclear Power

Greater utilization must be made of nuclear energy in order to achieve energy independence and maintain a strong economy. It is likewise vital that we continue our world leadership as a reliable supplier of nuclear technology in order to assure that worldwide growth in nuclear power is achieved with responsible and effective controls.

From  
President's  
Energy  
Message -  
February  
26, 1976

At present 57 commercial nuclear power plants are on line, providing more than 9 percent of our electrical requirements, and a total of 179 additional plants are planned or committed. If the electrical power supplied by the 57 existing nuclear power plants were supplied by oil-fired plants, an additional one million barrels of oil would be consumed each day.

On January 19, 1975, I activated the Independent Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) which has the responsibility for assuring the safety, reliability, and environmental acceptability of commercial nuclear power. The safety record for nuclear power plants is outstanding. Nevertheless, we must continue our efforts to assure that it will remain so in the years ahead. The NRC has taken a number of steps to reduce unnecessary regulatory delays and is continually alert to the need to review its policies and procedures for carrying out its assigned responsibilities.

I have requested greatly increased funding in my 1977 budget to accelerate research and development efforts that will meet our short-term needs to:

- make the safety of commercial nuclear power plants even more certain.
- develop further domestic safeguards technologies to assure against the theft and misuse of nuclear materials as the use of nuclear-generated electric power grows;
- provide for safe and secure long-term storage of radioactive wastes;
- and encourage industry to improve the reliability and reduce the construction time of commercial nuclear power plants.

I have also requested additional funds to identify new uranium resources and have directed ERDA to work with private industry to determine what additional actions are needed to bring capacity on-line to reprocess and recycle nuclear fuels.

Internationally, the United States in consultation with other nations which supply nuclear technology has decided to follow stringent export principles to ensure that international sharing of the benefits of nuclear energy does not lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. I have also decided that the U.S. should make a special contribution of up to \$5 million in the next five years to strengthen the safeguards program of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

It is essential that the Congress act if we are to take timely advantage of our nuclear energy potential. I urge enactment of the Nuclear Licensing Act to streamline the licensing procedures for the construction of new power plants.

I again strongly urge the Congress to give high priority to my Nuclear Fuel Assurance Act to provide enriched uranium needed for commercial nuclear power plants here and abroad. This proposed legislation which I submitted in June 1975, would provide the basis for transition to a private competitive uranium enrichment industry and prevent the heavy drain on the Federal budget. If the Federal Government were required to finance the necessary additional uranium enrichment capacity, it would have to commit more than \$8 billion over the next 2 to 3 years and \$2 billion annually thereafter. The taxpayers would eventually be repaid for these expenditures but not until sometime in the 1990's. Federal expenditures are not necessary under the provisions of this Act since industry is prepared to assume this responsibility with limited government cooperation and some temporary assurances. Furthermore, a commitment to new Federal expenditures for uranium enrichment could interfere with efforts to increase

## 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.

PARTICIPANTS

- . Frank Zarb
- . Bob Fri, Deputy Administrator of ERDA
- . Bill Anders, Chairman of NRC
- . Marc Rowden, Chairman designate of NRC (since last Friday)
- . Russ Peterson, Chairman of CEQ
- . John Busterud, Member of CEQ and former California legislator
- . Jack Veneman (former member of California legislature)
- . Kent Frizzell
- . James Baker, Under Secretary of Commerce (Elliott Richardson is out of town but will be in California on Friday)
- . Dick Darman, Assistant Secretary of Commerce (Richardson's principal energy assistant)
- . Eric Zausner
- . *Russ Train*

White House Staff

- . Jim Cannon
- . Jim Connor
- . Max Friedersdorf
- . Alan Greenspan
- . Jim Lynn
- . Jack Marsh
- . Rog Morton
- . Ed Schmults
- . Brent Scowcroft
- . Bill Seidman
- . Doug Smith (for Robert T. Hartmann)

Domestic Council Staff: Glenn Schleede

*George Humphreys*

[3/25/76]

Mr. Cannon

FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING ON THE STATUS OF  
NUCLEAR POWER

TAB

1. States Considering Restrictions on Nuclear Power
2. The President's response to Sid Davis, KPIX TV, San Francisco, on September 22, 1975, on the subject of nuclear power and the California initiative.
3. Nuclear power section of the President's February 26, 1976, message on energy to the Congress.
- ~~4. Proposed Q&A on the Nuclear Moratorium~~





OTHER STATES CONSIDERING  
RESTRICTIONS ON NUCLEAR POWER

MORE ACTIVE CONSIDERATION

Colorado Signatures being collected to meet April 3 deadline to get issue on ballot.

Delaware Nuclear moratorium bills introduced last year carried over to 1976 legislative session.

Hawaii Legislation similar to California initiative being considered in 1976 legislature.

Illinois Shoreline siting restriction legislation carried over to 1976 legislative session.

Iowa Nuclear moratorium and nuclear plant legislation carried over to 1976 legislative session.

Kansas Legislation to require State approval of nuclear plants carried over to 1976 legislative session.

Maine Initiative will go to legislature in January 1977. Bill to require State approval of plants voted down by legislature in 1975.

Massachusetts Land use and nuclear power liability bill failed on a 1975 ballot. Safeguards legislation reintroduced in 1976.

Michigan Moratorium legislation introduced in 1975 for 1976 session.

Minnesota Moratorium legislation voted down in Minnesota senate. House will consider in 1976.

Nebraska Moratorium legislation reintroduced in 1976 legislature.

New York Nuclear moratorium legislation and other restrictions on nuclear facilities carried over to 1976 session.

Ohio Legislation requiring legislative approval of plants being considered in current session.

Oklahoma Nuclear moratorium lost in 1975 referendum. Initiative petition being circulated for signatures.

Oregon Moratorium legislation failed to pass in 1975. Initiative scheduled for November 1976 ballot.

Pennsylvania Moratorium legislation introduced in 1975 for 1976 session.

Vermont Law requiring State approval of plants enacted in 1975. Moratorium legislation carried over to 1976 session.

Virginia Legislation requiring General Assembly approval of new nuclear plants was introduced in the 1976 session.

Washington Moratorium legislation carried over to 1976 session.

West Virginia Nuclear moratorium legislation introduced in 1976 legislature.

Wisconsin Moratorium legislation carried over to 1976 session.

LESS ACTIVE CONSIDERATION

Connecticut Legislation and referendum considered in 1975. Currently appears dormant.

Indiana Moratorium legislation failed in the House in 1975. Currently appears dormant.

Missouri Moratorium legislation failed in the Senate in 1975. Currently dormant.

Montana Moratorium legislation failed in 1975. Currently dormant.

Rhode Island Nuclear plant approval legislation -- intended to correct defective legislation passed in 1974 -- passed by legislature but was vetoed in 1975.



EXCHANGE WITH SID DAVIS, KPIX TV, SAN FRANCISCO  
DURING AN INTERVIEW ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1975

QUESTION

Mr. President, today in a speech you said that you envision some 200 nuclear power plants by the year 1985. Here in California, enough citizens are concerned about the safety and disposal problems of these plants to have put an issue on the ballot in June to ban the construction of them. How do you feel about the safety problem and about the disposal problem?

ANSWER

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which was established by the Congress last year and which is now in operation and the Energy Research and Development Organization which was likewise established by the Congress, both are in the process of studying safety, nuclear power development, etc.

So far, I believe that the overwhelming preponderance of the evidence indicates, one, that we have a safe nuclear power capability and, furthermore, that if there are any serious questions, that the further research and development will result in even a higher degree of safety, better safeguards.

I think in light of our serious, almost critical energy shortage that it is unwise for any State to ban the development and the utilization of nuclear power in the future.

We expect to build 250 nuclear power plants, as I recall, in the next ten years. If 49 other States do it, I can imagine there would be a serious adverse economic impact on the State of California. It would potentially -- I don't say certainly, but potentially -- interfere with the economic development of the great State of California. It would mean the loss of potential jobs as we need more jobs for the young people, for others.

I think there is a better approach than arbitrary ban because the safety record so far and the prognostications of responsible people indicate to me, at least, that the danger is not a serious one, and if there are any problems, they can be resolved.

PARTICIPANTS IN INTERVIEW

Sid Davis, the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company, San Borman,  
Belva Davis, Jennie Grimm, and Lynn Joiner KPIX TV



Greater utilization must be made of nuclear energy in order to achieve energy independence and maintain a strong economy. It is likewise vital that we continue our world leadership as a reliable supplier of nuclear technology in order to assure that worldwide growth in nuclear power is achieved with responsible and effective controls.

From  
President's  
Energy  
Message -  
February  
26, 1976

At present 57 commercial nuclear power plants are on line, providing more than 9 percent of our electrical requirements, and a total of 179 additional plants are planned or committed. If the electrical power supplied by the 57 existing nuclear power plants were supplied by oil-fired plants, an additional one million barrels of oil would be consumed each day.

On January 19, 1975, I activated the independent Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) which has the responsibility for assuring the safety, reliability, and environmental acceptability of commercial nuclear power. The safety record for nuclear power plants is outstanding. Nevertheless, we must continue our efforts to assure that it will remain so in the years ahead. The NRC has taken a number of steps to reduce unnecessary regulatory delays and is continually alert to the need to review its policies and procedures for carrying out its assigned responsibilities.

I have requested greatly increased funding in my 1977 budget to accelerate research and development efforts that will meet our short-term needs to:

- make the safety of commercial nuclear power plants even more certain.
- develop further domestic safeguards technologies to assure against the theft and misuse of nuclear materials as the use of nuclear-generated electric power grows;
- provide for safe and secure long-term storage of radioactive wastes;
- and encourage industry to improve the reliability and reduce the construction time of commercial nuclear power plants.

I have also requested additional funds to identify new uranium resources and have directed ERDA to work with private industry to determine what additional actions are needed to bring capacity on-line to reprocess and recycle nuclear fuels.

Internationally, the United States in consultation with other nations which supply nuclear technology has decided to follow stringent export principles to ensure that international sharing of the benefits of nuclear energy does not lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. I have also decided that the U.S. should make a special contribution of up to \$5 million in the next five years to strengthen the safeguards program of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

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notes

3/21/26

P - Texas study. - Regent University

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Anders -

Nothing is without risk

15,000 autos

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in 100 years you - not a

single injury or death  
associated w/ radiation

---

Noting - 1000 deaths  
year.

---

1 - in 1 B with you can  
be killed in one day



safe -  
dissent suppressed.



Brown July - new a  
serious problem

Services before on safety  
works

Plutonium - too much attention -  
~~at~~ look of us have  
100 up a

not a high record  
of death - from plutonium -  
in 30 yrs

Wrote request - Biggest  
issue of public concern

see <sup>position</sup> statement & under  
write by June 8  
safety aspects covered  
those used in space program

More - urban w/o countries  
 expand in waste disposal,  
 dealing w/ known things  
 possible, available -



dozen of cities without  
 money in the air  
 demographics.



Fri - waste management

identify  
 areas of potential

77 Budget: assess program  
 show design of investment  
 not existing before

? → few sites

Necessary select activity  
of stock & bond but you  
need to be technically,  
whenever & soundly acceptable

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1st water - 10y or longer  
temporal, using  
sustainable. N.E.  
baker bakery

spatial over 20'  
of water - at  
rate of plant

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P. stores - N. also  
plant reports better  
then for post

only alternative - coal -

another way is expansion  
of coal - growth  
nuclear power  $\rightarrow$  Then

What an alternative  
solves? -  
Nuclear fission  $\rightarrow$



Need to ~~be~~ long - term target  
to make people more  
comfortable by  
addressing problems

From - would give  
shift of additional  
coal to power  
Too much coal

attention up to Ben  
to California people

address at a public education  
to not politicking

