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# A PROPOSAL FOR A FIVE YEAR MORATORIUM on ABOVE GROUND NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

(a) Summary Testimony, Pennsylvania State Senate (August 20, 1970)

(b) Testimony Before The Select Committee on Nuclear Electricity Generation, Pennsylvania State Senate (August 20, 1970)

(c) Nuclear Energy Programs and The Public Health

by

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Testimony before

The Pennsylvania Senate

(Summary Statement)

by

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August 20, 1970

I should like to recommend that the Pennsylvania Legislature take the important, constructive step of declaring a 5-year moratorium on the planning, construction, and operation of nuclear power plants above ground anywhere in Pennsylvania. This would represent a first step toward the safe consideration of nuclear energy in the future.

The radiation hazard has recently become appreciated to be far greater both with respect to cancer and leukemia risk, as well as with respect to the even larger hazard of genetic disorders, including the major killing disease of our society, coronary heart disease.

Our estimates are, if the average allowable exposure were reached by the U. S. population, there would result:

(a) 32,000 extra cancer plus leukemia deaths annually,

(b) 150,000 to 1,500,000 extra genetic deaths annually,

(c) a 5% to 50% increase in diseases like schizophrenia, our major mental disease.

Professor Joshua Lederberg, the Nobel Prize Winning Geneticist, has independently estimated the genetic disorders alone would cost 10-Billion Dollars annually in additional health care burden. He estimates (Washington Post, July 19, 1970) that the uncertainties might place the true cost between 1-Billion and 100-Billion Dollars per year for FRC Guideline Exposure.

No comfort whatever is to be drawn from AEC and Nuclear Industry spokesmen that (a) we aren't now receiving such radiation and (b) we won't in the future. We should be thankful that we appreciate the problem now - before such dangerous exposure is ever reached. Second, all estimates of future exposure by such spokesmen as Commissioner Theos Thompson neglect the major sources of exposure of the population, which are potentially associated with fuel reprocessing, transportation of radioactive fuels, waste disposal, and above all, nuclear reactor accidents or sabotage.

The insurance industry does not have confidence in the nuclear power industry. They exclude nuclear damage in home owners policies and the Price-Anderson Act is the only coverage (grossly inadequate) for major accidents. All of this is because proposed nuclear power plants represent a potentially dangerous experiment being proposed near major population centers.

If Pennsylvania bars nuclear reactors for power above ground, it is likely that the necessary re-thinking, planning, and rational understanding of the true hazards can begin. Perhaps then we can begin to move toward a sound policy of meeting electric power requirements for our people. The current policy forebodes potential major disaster for Pennsylvania and the nation, and must, therefore, be altered.