

September 25, 1972

Note to John F. O'Leary

With regard to the attached, Steve's idea to ban pressure suppression containment schemes is an attractive one in some ways. Dry containments have the notable advantage of brute simplicity in dealing with a primary blowdown, and are thereby free of the perils of bypass leakage.

However, the acceptance of pressure suppression containment concepts by all elements of the nuclear field, including Regulatory and the ACRS, is firmly imbedded in the conventional wisdom. Reversal of this hallowed policy, particularly at this time, could well be the end of nuclear power. It would throw into question the continued operation of licensed plants, would make unlicensable the GE and Westinghouse ice condenser plants now in review, and would generally create more turmoil than I can stand thinking about.

Joseph M. Hendrie

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