

April 27, 2004

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

Thank you for your letter of April 9, 2004, regarding the anniversary of the Three Mile Island (TMI) accident. I stated on CNN and in other forums that the TMI accident was not a "disaster in radiological terms" because that is what the evidence clearly indicates. Surveys of radiation releases taken by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and other Federal and State agencies in the days following the accident; analysis of radioactive material levels in milk, other foodstuffs, and water in the area surrounding the plants; whole-body counts of more than 700 individuals who lived near TMI at the time of the accident; and the most recent and comprehensive epidemiological studies all support this conclusion. To the best of my knowledge, there have been no court-awarded damages for radiological injury, nor, to the best of my knowledge, have the insurers made any out-of-court payments for such claims. Anyone with an interest in verifying my statement about the significance to public health and safety of the TMI radiation releases should examine the large volume of documents on the TMI accident in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Thus far, the NRC has located six classified documents relating to the TMI accident. Unfortunately, NRC cannot declassify the documents at this time because the documents originated with a foreign government or another government agency. I can assure you, however, that they do not deal with the radiological issues raised in your letter. We will continue our search to determine whether we have other classified materials. The NRC placed nearly all of its documents relating to the TMI accident, including thousands of pages of Commission meeting transcripts and incident response center telephone conversations, in the public domain within a short time after the accident occurred. If you wish, we can facilitate your staff's review.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz