

J. Milhoan



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

July 31, 1979

Docket No.: 50-320

Dr. Chauncey Starr
Vice Chairman of Electric Power
Research Institute
3412 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Dear Dr. Starr:

We in NRC have read with interest the recent press accounts of the efforts of the nuclear industry to establish a national institute to monitor and improve the operation of nuclear power reactors. I am pleased to learn that you have agreed to assist the industry in the formation of the national institute.

As you may know, a task force was formed early this summer in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation ("The Lessons Learned Task Force"). Its job is to identify and evaluate safety concerns originating with the TMI-2 accident that require licensing actions for operating reactors as well as for pending operating license and construction permit applications. Attached is a copy of a report by the Lessons Learned Task Force, NUREG-0578, "TMI-2 Lessons Learned Task Force Status Report and Short-Term Recommendations," for your information. Several of the short-term recommendations are related to nuclear power plant operations. Over the next several weeks, the task force will continue its evaluation of the accident by considering broader and more fundamental questions related to the design and operation of nuclear power plants and the licensing process.

It was pointed out in a June 28, 1979, press release that the operations institute will cooperate with the NRC, but will maintain its identity and independence. We generally support such an approach; however, I believe it to be to our mutual advantage that a significant degree of coordination and understanding exist between the operations institute and the NRC.

A member of the Lessons Learned Task Force, Mr. James Milhoan, has been in contact with Mr. Randy Pack of your staff with regard to the development of plans for the operations institute. I think this is valuable and encourage continuance of this type of contact; however, I believe it would be useful to expand the general NRC understanding of the operations institute while plans for its inauguration are being developed. In this

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regard, I believe it would be useful for the management and several other technical staff of the Lessons Learned Task Force to meet with you and your staff in the near future. We will be pleased to meet at a location of your choice or you may desire the meeting be held in Washington, D.C. where more of the NRC staff is accessible. Please call James Milhoan or me on 301-492-7517 to arrange such a meeting.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Robert L. Tedesco

Roger J. Mattson, Director
Lessons Learned Task Force

Enclosure: NUREG-0578

cc: F. Graham, AIF
R. Pack, EPRI

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