

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

November 13, 1979



Mrs. June T. Didas
 9303 Flower Avenue
 Silver Spring, MD 20901

Dear Mrs. Didas:

This is in reply to your letter of April 10, 1979, to Chairman Hendrie about birth defects from radioactive fallout. I am sorry for the delay in replying but we have been very busy with the aftermath of the Three Mile Island accident.

Enclosed for your information is a report NUREG-0558 on "Population Dose and Health Impact of the Accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station" prepared by technical staff members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Environmental Protection Agency and published in May 1979. A section on "Genetic Effects" starts on page 51.

In the table on page 61 of the report, it is estimated that, of the 78,000 people who would normally show genetic effects in the first generation, less than 1,000 would be from natural background radiation and that no more than one additional case would result as a potential lifetime impact of the population dose from the TMI accident from March 28 through April 7, 1979. For all future generations, no more than five additional cases would result from the TMI accident. The results may be much lower as indicated by the range of values given in the table.

We appreciate your concerns but believe that the genetic effects of the TMI accident were not significant. We are making every effort to prevent such accidents from occurring in the future.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Denton, Director
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
 As stated

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POPULATION DOSE AND HEALTH EFFECTS OF
THE ACCIDENT AT THE THREE MILE ISLAND
NUCLEAR STATION

Preliminary Estimates Prepared by the
Ad Hoc Interagency Dose Assessment Group

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