

NRC PDR



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555  
November 16, 1979

Mr. Gerald J. Kissel  
3541 Stoner Avenue  
Reading, PA 19606

Dear Mr. Kissel:

Your letter of September 26, 1979, to Governor Thornburgh and NRC Commissioners with regard to the restarting of Unit No. 1 at Three Mile Island has been referred to this office for reply.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission in its Order of July 2, 1979, directing that Three Mile Island Unit No. 1 shall remain shut down until further order of the Commission itself after a public hearing, stated:

"In view of the variety of issues raised by the accident at the Three Mile Island Unit No. 2 facility, the Commission presently lacks the requisite reasonable assurance that the same licensee's Three Mile Island Unit No. 1 facility, a nuclear power reactor of similar design, can be operated without endangering the health and safety of the public."

The Commission's Order and Notice of Hearing on August 9, 1979, stated:

"In addition to the items identified for the other B&W reactors, the unique circumstances at TMI require that additional safety concerns identified by the NRC staff be resolved prior to restart. These concerns result from (1) potential interaction between Unit 1 and the damaged Unit 2, (2) questions about the management capabilities and technical resources of Metropolitan Edison, including the impact of the Unit 2 accident on these, (3) the potential effect of operations necessary to decontaminate the Unit 2 facility on Unit 1 and (4) recognized deficiencies in emergency plans and station operating procedures."

Enclosed for your information is a complete copy of the Commission's Order and Notice of Hearing on August 9. The last page gives a tentative schedule from the publication of the notice to the decision by the Hearing Board.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
"Order and Notice of Hearing"

1594 126

7912170 009

G