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

NOV 26 1979

Ms. Merri Johnson
10411 Colerain Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

Dear Merri:

Let me first express my regrets for the delay in responding to your April 17, 1979 letter to President Carter in which you expressed concern about the Zimmer Nuclear Power Station.

As you can imagine, a great many letters from the public have come into the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the months following the Three Mile Island accident, all of which we are answering as fast as resources permit. We also needed the time to complete our studies sufficiently so that we are able to answer your concerns more directly.

You heard that people living around the Three Mile Island plant had to be evacuated because of the leakage following the accident. That is not exactly true. A lot of confusion existed at the time regarding evacuation because the information on the releases was fragmentary due to communications problems. Two days after the accident, at the recommendation of the Commission and as a precautionary measure against further waste gas releases, the Governor of Pennsylvania advised that pregnant women and preschool children leave the region within a 5-mile radius of Three Mile Island and to close all schools within the area. However, no general evacuation was ever needed, although the possibility of one if the reactor condition deteriorated remained with us for several days. The Governor's advisory lasted about 10 days.

After reviewing the actual radiological information collected, it is estimated that the increase in radiation dose to persons living within a 50-mile radius of the Three Mile Island plant due to the accident was about one percent of the annual dose from natural background radiation sources. On the basis of present scientific knowledge, the radiation doses received by the general population as a result of exposure to the radioactivity released during the accident were so small that there will be no detectable additional cases of cancer as a consequence of the accident. These were part of the findings of the President's Commission on the accident at Three Mile Island.

Nevertheless, we are in the process of completing our plans regarding changes to plant designs and procedures including operator training and emergency preparedness plans. These requirements will be placed on all nuclear plants including the Zimmer Station so that we can all be more assured regarding nuclear power plant safety.

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Ms. Merri Johnson

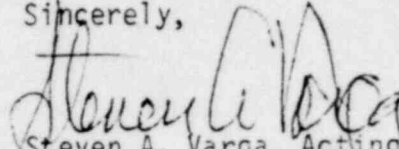
- 2 -

NOV 26 1979

The generation of electricity from a nuclear power plant is similar in principle to the operation of a fossil fueled power plant except that a nuclear reactor is used to generate steam instead of coal or oil. You may be able to find many good books on the subject in your public library.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Varga, Acting Assistant
Director for Light Water Reactors
Division of Project Management

POOR ORIGINAL

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POOR ORIGINAL

Dear President Carter,

Congratulations on your peace treaty.

Now the reason I'm writing this letter is because I'm concerned with that leakage of the Nuclear Power Plant in 3 mile island. I heard that the people that lived around in that area had to be evacuated.

I'm concerned about that new Nuclear Power Plant that is almost finished being built in Moscow, Ohio. Now can you be sure that we people in Cincinnati are not in danger of being evacuated because of the radioactivity leakage in the Nuclear Power Plant?

Sincerely,

Mari Johnson

P.S. Would you please send me some information on how a Nuclear Power Plant is operated, and your opinion on the safety of the new Power Plant being built in Ohio?

16111 Cedarwood Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio
45242

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