

Local PDR



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

DEC 10 1979

Ms. Wendy Koch
Old Stonehouse Road
Bedminster, NJ 07921

Dear Ms. Koch:

I am writing in response to your letter of April 11, 1979 to Mr. Rowden regarding information about Three Mile Island. As Mr. Rowden is no longer chairman of the NRC, I am responding to your letter. I regret that this answer to your letter has been delayed. The accident and its consequences have created a substantial increase in the agency's workload, which has prevented me from responding to you as promptly as I would have liked to.

With respect to alternative methods of energy production, such as solar, wind, and geothermal, the Department of Energy is the Federal Agency responsible for their research and development. The NRC considers these alternative methods of energy production in its assessment of the environmental impact of each nuclear power plant as part of our overall review of each utility's application for a construction permit or an operating license. To date, we have determined that alternative methods of energy production are neither technically nor economically feasible to provide the required amount of power at the time it is needed.

The former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) had a Congressional mandate to develop and promote nuclear energy. When the AEC was abolished in 1974, the NRC was created by Congress for the sole purpose of regulating the commercial production of nuclear energy. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is now responsible for the Federal Government's nuclear research and development activities. Consequently, questions about the future of this energy source should be directed to that agency.

Several Nuclear Regulatory Commission reports are currently available that discuss the accident at Three Mile Island. The reports, their availability, and their costs are as follows:

"Population Dose and Health Impact of the Accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station" (NUREG-0558), \$3.50

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DEC 10 1979

"TMI-2 Lessons Learned Task Force Status Report and Short-Term Recommendations" (NUREG-0578), \$3.50

"TMI-2 Lessons Learned Task Force - Final Report" (NUREG-0585), \$2.50

"Investigation into the March 28, 1979, Three Mile Island Accident by the Office of Inspection and Enforcement" (NUREG-0600), \$10.00

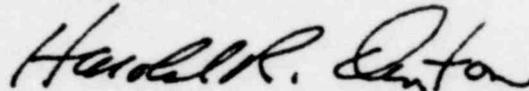
These reports can be obtained by writing to:

Publication Sales Manager
Document Management Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

All subsequent information about Three Mile Island and its availability are listed in "Title List of Publicly Available Documents: Three Mile Island - Docket 50-320" (NUREG-0568), and its revision, NUREG-0568, Revision 1. Both title lists can be obtained from the Publication Sales Manager at the above address for \$4.50 and \$5.50, respectively.

Summaries of NUREG-0600 and NUREG-0558 are enclosed for your further information.

Sincerely,



Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Encls: Summary of NUREG-0600
Summary of NUREG-0558

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