



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION III  
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD  
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

*B. H. Grier, RI*

50-320

April 16, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: B. H. Grier, Director, RI

THRU:

*cc'd*

A. B. Davis, Chief, Fuel Facility and Material  
Safety Branch, RIII

FROM:

T. H. Essig, Chief, Environmental and Special  
Projects Section

SUBJECT:

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AT THREE MILE ISLAND

In response to your memorandum dated April 9, 1979, a report of my involvement at the TMI site is presented below:

1. I arrived at the TMI site at approximately 1600 hours, March 29, 1979, along with W. L. Fisher, also of RIII. After a briefing and orientation lasting until approximately 2000 hours, my regular work schedule began at 0800 on March 30. Each work day averaged about 15 hours, extending from 0800 to 2300 (sometimes 2200 and occasionally 2400 hours). My last work day onsite was April 9. I departed for the Harrisburg airport at approximately 1530 hours on the same day. Between March 29 and April 9, I worked 56.5 regular hours and 109 nonregular hours, for a total of 165.5 hours during my tour of duty.
2. My primary duties consisted of a review and coordination of the environmental data being collected by the NRC and the licensee. Considerable time was also spent reviewing data, trends, and conclusions with IE Headquarters personnel and cognizant NRR personnel onsite.
3. My primary licensee contacts were Mr. Michael Buring, and representatives of Radiation Management Corporation (RMC) and Science Applications, Incorporated (SAI), both of whom were contractors to the licensee. Mr. Buring displayed a very cooperative attitude, i.e., he was willing to answer my questions and to provide me in a timely manner with environmental program data. Licensee contractor personnel appeared sufficiently competent and were also very cooperative.
4. All things considered, I thought NRC operations at the site went quite well; however, three points are worthy of comment:

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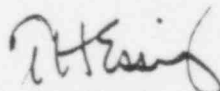
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April 16, 1979

- a. Initially, interactions with the news media took too much time away from the performance of our duties. This improved somewhat after additional security measures were instituted around trailer city.
- b. The constant barrage of telephone calls (mostly from HQ) decreased my effectiveness in the performance of my duties (primarily to evaluate the licensee's performance and to conduct independent measurements). I'm not sure what could be done about this in the future, however.
- c. Even after our discovery that most, if not all, radio conversations were being monitored by the news media, NRC appeared to make little attempt (NRR was particularly guilty of this) to make a radio contact and request a telephone call back to discuss all the gory details re. radiation levels, temperatures, pressures, etc. relative to TMI-2. In my opinion, the discussion of such details over the radio creates the perfect opportunity for the media to take the "bits and pieces" of their choosing and create a horror story which likely could be avoided.

I hope that the above has been responsive to your request.



T. H. Essig, Chief  
Environmental and Special  
Projects Section