



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 2 1979

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable Joseph Hendrie  
Chairman, United States Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Joe:

With the Environmental Protection Agency's assignment by Jack Watson to coordinate the collection of environmental radiation data at Three Mile Island, I feel it is very important to establish arrangements for coordination between our two Agencies. There are three areas requiring coordination: first, coordinating the environmental monitoring efforts with the cleanup operations; second, exchanging environmental data; and third, maintaining close cooperation on press releases.

To optimize our environmental monitoring for radionuclides, we need to anticipate the time of any possible releases from the power plant on Three Mile Island. We propose a weekly briefing at Harrisburg where each Agency will report its environmental findings for the preceding week and where the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will report on the status of both reactors and on the anticipated operations within the next seven days at reactor number two. In addition to those Agencies directly involved, representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Metropolitan Edison Company should be invited to these meetings. Whenever there are operations at the power plant which could result in environmental levels above background level, we should meet daily.

It is essential that we exchange data, including that collected by the Metropolitan Edison Company, at least weekly. It is also incumbent upon EPA to compile all environmental data reported to and collected by it on a weekly basis as well as to report its environmental measurements to the Commission daily for public consumption. The daily report will be for use in your daily press release.

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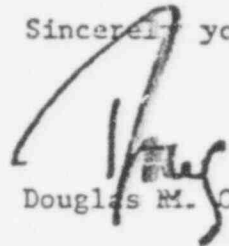
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In addition, a procedure needs to be worked out for EPA to concur on any press releases in which environmental data are reported. Such a procedure would assure that statements would not be made based on data which may be in error. Otherwise it would be incumbent upon us to correct any erroneous statements.

To address these and other issues of cooperation I have designated Stephen J. Gage, my Assistant Administrator for Research and Development, as the lead for the Agency to manage our monitoring and reporting efforts related to the Three Mile Island accident. Reporting to Steve Gage, Erich Bretthauer has been designated the on-site coordinator for EPA at Three Mile Island. I would appreciate receiving from you names of designees with whom Steve and Erich can work in their respective roles. A meaningful agreement between our two Agencies is critical, and I am looking forward to an early meeting between our respective designees

Sincerely yours,



Douglas M. Costle

cc: Mr. Jack Watson  
The White House

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