



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

COMM  
CORR

July 18, 1979

Dr. Philip Handler  
President  
National Academy of Sciences  
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20418

Dear Dr. Handler: *Phil*

Thank you for your letter of June 21 offering the assistance of the Academy in improving the safety of the nuclear energy program. Your suggestions of failure mode studies and operator training studies are certainly germane in light of our current understanding of the Three Mile Island accident.

You propose waiting until after the recommendations of the Kemeny Commission are available to start work. Since those recommendations are not expected for four months, and since work is already underway within NRC in these two areas, I would encourage your staff to begin discussions now with the NRC staff involved with the lessons learned from Three Mile Island. If you agree, please contact Dr. Roger Mattson at 492-7517 to explore ways to begin to develop possible projects by which the Academy might assist in our future work. If you prefer to wait, we of course understand and encourage your later involvement.

Thank you again for your offer of assistance.

Sincerely,

*JMH*  
Joseph M. Hendrie

757 023

7908170 327