

JUL 5 1979

POOR ORIGINAL

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rangel:

I regret that I was unable to answer your mailgram of April 2, 1979, directly during or immediately after the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant. However, during this period, NRC representatives from the Office of State Programs, operating out of the Emergency Operations Center in Bethesda, were in close contact with the New York State Health Department, Bureau of Radiological Health. It was their responsibility to supply all pertinent information related to this accident to officials of the Bureau of Radiological Health of the State of New York.

For your information, we are providing the following data on radiation levels measured at various distances prior to the March 28 accident as well as subsequent to it and the potential health hazard posed by those levels.

Prior to the March 28 accident the normal background level in all directions from the site ranged from approximately 0.01-0.02 milliroentgens/hour. In the time frame immediately following the accident, the measured radiation levels were substantially higher with the highest readings being measured near the site boundary.

At the time of the accident, Metropolitan Edison had 20 thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLDs) deployed at various distances from the site (out to approximately 15 miles). These TLDs measure the integrated dose over a period of time. The TLDs were collected and replaced with new TLDs approximately 30 hours after the accident. Analysis of the TLDs indicated that the average dose rate in the environs measured by the TLDs during the thirty hours immediately after the incident was generally in the range 0.1-0.2 milliroentgens/hour above background. Two locations on uninhabited islands near the site indicated a significantly higher dose rate. The two islands and doses were Shelley Island (1.1 miles SSW of site), 1.3 milliroentgens/hour and Kohn Island (0.4 miles NNW of site), 25 milliroentgens/hour. During the period March 29-31, analysis of the results from the same TLD locations indicated that the dose rate was generally in the range of 0.02-0.2 milliroentgen/hour. The highest reading was 0.8 milliroentgen/hour 1/2 mile ENE of the site.

7909240021

1001 168

The Honorable Charles B. Range - 2 -

Analysis of the 37 TLDs deployed by the NRC out to 12 miles from the site indicated that most of the average dose rates on March 31-April 1 ranged from 0.01-0.05 milliroentgens/hour with the highest average dose rate of 1.4 milliroentgens/hour approximately 1/2 mile ENE of the site. During the next week the average dose rates were on a generally downward trend and by April 8, they were at normal background levels.

Based on the foregoing radiation measurements, no significant health hazard is expected to result.

Predictions of radiation dispersion patterns are not expected to be influenced by explosion or meltdown (quantities of materials released would be affected). The attached document "Population Dose and Health Impact of the Accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station", NUREG-0558, gives detailed information on dispersal of radioactive materials and radiation doses to the population around the TMI site.

I hope the above information will be helpful to you. If you need further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
Joseph M. Hendrie

Joseph M. Hendrie  
Chairman

Attachment:  
NUREG-0558

DISTRIBUTION

- Central Files
- MPA:DTS Reading
- MPA:Reading
- MPA:LOEB Reading
- EDO #05868
- NMHaller
- JGDavis
- JCook
- RAHartfield
- RGMuranaka
- MRBeebe
- JRRizzo
- JFlynn
- OCA (3)
- SECY (2)

Cleared with all Comrs. by SECY C/R

SECY *J* OCM *MD* OCM *MD*

*or R/Combs* *WMDorie* *HMEntecilla*

*7/13/79* *7/15/79* *7/15/79*

Identical letter sent to Rep. Ted Weiss

POOR ORIGINAL

Note: Information in this document was obtained from IE and then assembled into this letter by J. Rizzo/ M. Beebe.

1001 169

OFFICE	MPA:LOEB:ODS	MPA:LOEB	MPA	EDG	OCA	OCM
SURNAME	JJRizzo	RGMuranaka	NMHaller	LVGossick	S	JMHendrie
DATE	6/13/79	6/17/79	6/13/79	6/14/79	7/5/79	6/5/79

FROM: <b>Rep. Charles B. Rangel/Ted Weiss</b>		ACTION CONTROL	DATES	CONTROL NO. <b>05868</b>
TO: <b>Chairman Hendrie</b>		COMPL DEADLINE	<b>4/27/79</b>	DATE OF DOCUMENT <b>4/2/79</b>
DESCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		ACKNOWLEDGMENT	<b>4/2/79 JCA</b>	PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN <input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OTHER: _____
<b>Req info on radiation dispersion patterns expected from TMI and the risks to New York City</b>		INTERIM REPLY		
CLASSIFIED DATA DOCUMENT/COPY NO. _____ CLASSIFICATION _____ NUMBER OF PAGES _____ CATEGORY _____ POSTAL REGISTRY NO. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> NSI <input type="checkbox"/> RD <input type="checkbox"/> FRD		FINAL REPLY	<b>11/4/79</b>	
ASSIGNED TO: <b>Haller</b> DATE: <b>4/12/79</b>		FILE LOCATION	<b>712/19</b>	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS <b>EPA will coordinate TMI key correspondence and will be in contact w/offices involved to acquire input.</b> <b>Address ASAP - 10 days, or talk w/Rama</b>
INFORMATION ROUTING <b>Davis</b> <b>Jeanne Cook</b>		LEGAL REVIEW <input type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> COPY NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY: <input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRES BR _____ EXT. _____ COMMENTS, NOTIFY: _____ EXT. _____ JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		

NRC FORM 232  
(11-75)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

DO NOT REMOVE THIS COPY

PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

POOR ORIGINAL

1001 170

POOR ORIGINAL

No. 79-0688 Logging Date 4/3/79

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO:  Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Exec. Dir./Oper. \_\_\_\_\_  Gen. Counsel \_\_\_\_\_

Cong. Liaison \_\_\_\_\_  Solicitor \_\_\_\_\_

Public Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Incoming: Reps. Charles Rangel & Ted Weiss &

From: 6 other ~~XXXX~~ State & local New York  
officials

To: Chairman Hendrie Date 4/2/79

Subject: Requests info. on radiation dispersal  
~~XXXX~~ patterns expected from Three Mile Island

Prepare reply for signature of:

Chairman Date due Comm: April 13

- Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_
- EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY
- Signature block omitted
- \_\_\_\_\_

Return original of incoming with response

- For direct reply\*
- For appropriate action
- For information
- For recommendation

4/4/79  
2:23

Remarks: Cpys to: Chm, Cmr's, PE, OGC, PA, SECY, PDR,  
ACRS, OIA, Incident Response Center, OCA to Acknowledge  
Rapifaxed to EDO

For the Commission: Combs

\*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Mail Facility

NRC-62

ACTION SLIP

1001 171

7902240  
7902240