

AUG 6 1979

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REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

Dr. Philip J. Avillo, Jr.
York College of Pennsylvania
Country Club Road
York, Pennsylvania 17405

Dear Dr. Avillo:

Your letter of May 31, 1979 to the President with the enclosed resolution by concerned faculty members at York College was referred to us on July 24, 1979 by the Department of Energy.

We appreciate your concern about restarting the operation of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station. Unit No. 2 is not operable and won't be for a long time to come. With regard to Unit No. 1, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued the following Order on July 2, 1979:

"In view of the variety of issues raised by the accident at the Three Mile Island Unit No. 2 facility, the Commission presently lacks the requisite reasonable assurance that the same licensee's (Three Mile Island Unit No. 1 facility, a nuclear power reactor of similar design, can be operated without endangering the health and safety of the public. Accordingly, we direct that the Unit No. 1 facility, presently in a shutdown condition, shall remain shut down until further order of the Commission itself. The Commission has further determined that it is in the public interest that a hearing precede restart of the facility. The Commission will also issue an order within thirty (30) days specifying in detail the basis for its concerns, and the procedures to govern further proceedings in this matter. The licensee may file a written answer to this Order no later than twenty (20) days after the issuance of the detailed Order.

The Commission has found that the public health, safety and interest require that this order be effective immediately.

It is so ORDERED."

You can therefore be assured that Three Mile Island Unit No. 1 will remain shut down until the Commission has determined, after a public hearing, that it can be operated without endangering the public health and safety.

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Dr. Philip J. Avillo, Jr.

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You may also be interested in the enclosed NRC report NUREG-0578 of July 1979 on "TMI Lessons Learned Task Force Status Report and Short-Term Recommendations." This Task Force is continuing work in areas of general safety criteria, systems design requirements, nuclear power plant operations, and nuclear power plant licensing.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
NUREG-0578

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FROM: Philip J. Avillo York College of Pennsylvania		ACTION CONTROL	DATES	CONTROL NO. 06964
TO: The President (referred to NRC by DOE 7/24/79)		COMPL DEADLINE		DATE OF DOCUMENT 5/31/79
DESCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		ACKNOWLEDGMENT		PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:
Resolution concerning safety of nuclear power & opposing restart of TMI 1 and 2 until safety is assured		INTERIM REPLY		<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN
CLASSIFIED DATA		FINAL REPLY <i>sp. 1</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DOCUMENT/COPY NO.	CLASSIFICATION	FILE LOCATION <i>8/1/79</i>	OTHER: <i>all</i>	
NUMBER OF PAGES	CATEGORY	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS		
POSTAL REGISTRY NO.	<input type="checkbox"/> NSI <input type="checkbox"/> RD <input type="checkbox"/> FRD			
ASSIGNED TO:	DATE	INFORMATION ROUTING	LEGAL REVIEW	<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> COPY
<i>Denise</i>	7/30/79	TMI group	ASSIGNED TO:	NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY:
<i>f/ep/rop action</i>		<i>Shank</i>	DATE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRES BR
		<i>Law</i>		EXT. _____
				COMMENTS. NOTIFY:
				EXT. _____
			JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

NRC FORM 232
(11-75)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

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PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

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JUL 24 1979

Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dr. Philip J. Aвило, Jr.
York College of Pennsylvania
Country Club Road
York, Pennsylvania 17405

Dear Dr. Aвило:

Your recent letter to the President expressing concerns about the safety of nuclear power as a result of the incident at Three Mile Island has been referred to this office for reply.

Inasmuch as these matters are under the cognizance of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, we are referring your letter to them for appropriate action by copy of this letter.

Sincerely,

John P. Thereault, Deputy Director
Plans and Analysis Division
Office of Nuclear Energy Programs

cc:
~~Mr.~~ Gossick, NRC

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YORK COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Country Club Road, York, Pennsylvania 17405

Telephone (717) 846-77



May 31, 1979

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a resolution signed by concerned faculty members at York College of Pennsylvania regarding the recent nuclear accident at Three Mile Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip J. Avillo, Jr.".

Philip J. Avillo, Jr., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Department of History/International Studies

PJA/nbf

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RESOLUTION OF CONCERNED FACULTY

AT

YORK COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

MAY 1, 1979

WHEREAS, THE nuclear accident which occurred at Three Mile Island on March 28, 1979, has revealed the following information about nuclear power in general and Reactors No. 1 and No. 2 at Three Mile Island in particular:

1. that the accident in Reactor No. 2 was the worst nuclear accident in the history of nuclear power generating facilities;

2. that the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, hereinafter cited as "NRC," found that Nuclear Reactor No. 2 was out of control for several hours that day;

3. that there continued to exist a great potential for a core meltdown at Reactor No. 2 for several days thereafter, that radiation leaks continue to jeopardize health, and that the Three Mile Island facility will in the future continue to be a health risk to the citizens of South Central Pennsylvania;

4. that, according to the NRC, the accident resulted from a combination of design errors by the manufacturer, Babcock & Wilcox, Co., mechanical failures and human errors, such as the turning off of reserve safety control systems for two weeks prior to the accident;

5. that the technology required to prevent similar potentially disastrous accidents at this or other nuclear power plants has yet to be developed;

6. that a core meltdown at Nuclear Reactor No. 2 would devastate this geographical area, killing thousands, causing untold cancer and genetic disorders in others, contaminating farmlands for hundreds of years, and contaminating the Susquehanna River, thereby rendering uninhabitable most of South Central Pennsylvania.

7. that the NRC has discovered similar safety violations in Nuclear Reactor No. 1 at Three Mile Island;

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8. that the Three Mile Island facility lacks the means to safely dispose of its nuclear wastes.

Now, therefore, the faculty members of York College of Pennsylvania listed below acting in genuine concern for the safety and well-being of all the residents of South Central Pennsylvania resolve the following:

1. that the NRC should prohibit the reactivation of either Reactor No. 1 or Reactor No. 2 at Three Mile Island unless and until:

- a. both reactors and all auxiliary facilities are totally decontaminated;
- b. all mechanical systems at the site are inspected by the NRC and found to be safe to the extent that no such potentially dangerous accident can ever occur again;
- c. capable and qualified employees of the NRC are stationed on site at Three Mile Island twenty-four hours a day, every day of the week, forever, with independent powers to override any operational decision of the operator, Metropolitan Edison, and to shut down the facility in the event of a threatened danger;
- d. the mechanical systems of the nuclear reactor are designed so that the operator cannot, without action by the representative of the NRC, shut down any automatic safety control systems; and
- e. the safety of the citizens from danger resulting from transportation and disposal of nuclear waste from the Three Mile Island facility be guaranteed;

2. that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, the United States Senators from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the United States Congressmen from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,

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