

APR 14 1980

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Mr. David W. Young, Sr.  
260 E. Fair Oaks Place  
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Dear Mr. Young:

Thank you for your recent letter to Chairman Ahearne expressing concern about the delay in placing Three Mile Island Unit 1 back into service. The Chairman has asked that I respond to your letter.

On July 2, 1979, the Commission ordered that TMI-1 remain in a cold shutdown condition until further order by the Commission and stated that a public hearing would be held prior to restart of TMI-1. The Commission believes that public participation is a vital ingredient in matters related to TMI-1 restart plans.

On August 9, 1979, the Commission issued an additional Order on TMI-1 specifying the basis for the Shutdown Order and the procedures to govern the hearing regarding restart. On the basis of this hearing, the Commission will determine whether any further operation of TMI-1 will be permitted and, if so, under what conditions. I have enclosed a copy of the August 9, 1979, Order for your information.

The Commission's Order also indentifies a number of items that must be resolved prior to restart. These items, which are listed on pages 5-7 of the Order, include but go beyond those required for restart of other Babcock & Wilcox-design pressurized water reactors similar to TMI Units 1 and 2. These additional items included those recommended by the Lessons Learned Task Force, which studied the TMI accident.

The Commission carefully considered the time required for completing all tasks related to the Order. (A Commission Schedule calling for expeditious handling of the necessary NRC staff and procedural actions required for the hearing process is provided on the last page of the Commission's Order.) Based on that schedule and the current status of the proceedings, I do not believe that the restart of TMI-1 could occur until early next year.

*Handwritten signature*  
S. R. Case

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:

Commission Order dated August 9, 1979

\*NOTE SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR CONCURRENCES

OFFICE ▶	TMI-1 PM	D/TMI SUP.	D:DIR/NRR	DIR/NRR		
SURNAME ▶	*HSilver/hmt	RVollmer	EGCase	HRDenton		
DATE ▶	4/9/80	4/10/80	4/ /80	4/ /80		

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