



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
HARRISBURG

*Shirley A*

THE GOVERNOR

April 11, 1980

Honorable John F. Ahearne  
Acting Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is to confirm my informal request to your staff regarding the proposal to remove radioactive Krypton 85 from the Three Mile Island Unit 2 containment building by the process of venting it into the surrounding atmosphere. As you know, that proposal was entered into the Federal Register on March 27, with the period ending April 17 assigned for public comment.

The proposal has aroused considerable anxiety in the surrounding area, coupled with the assertion by some that safer alternatives exist for Krypton decontamination.

In the interest of assuring that the venting proposal and its alternatives have been thoroughly examined by the broadest range of experts knowledgeable in the field, and in the hope of assuring our people that whatever course ultimately taken is, indeed, the safest available, I have asked the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) to undertake an independent study of this matter.

As indicated in the attached correspondence, UCS has agreed to do so, and Dr. Henry Kendall, chairman of the organization, has indicated his understanding of the need to complete this study within approximately one month.

I therefore respectfully request that the commission extend its comment period to reflect whatever facts or opinions might emerge from this effort, and accordingly defer any final decision on the cleanup proposal.

4/15..To EDO to Prepare Reply for Signature of Chairman..Date due Comm:  
April 17...Cpys to: Chm,Cmrs,PE,GC,PA,CA,Chilk,Docket...80-0736

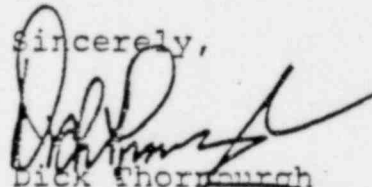
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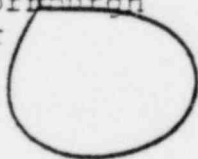
Please be assured that my request to UCS in no way represents a judgment, on my part, regarding the venting proposal. If a broad consensus is possible on this difficult question, however, I believe it would be in the public interest for all parties to work together in a good faith effort to reach one. I understand that UCS and members of your staff are working cooperatively to complete this assessment as expeditiously as possible.

Your support and assistance in this regard would be deeply appreciated, not only by me, but by the people living in the area surrounding Three Mile Island.

Sincerely,



Dick Thornburgh  
Governor



Union of  
**CONCERNED  
SCIENTISTS**

April 4, 1980

Governor Richard Thornburgh  
Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Thornburgh:

This letter is the response of the Union of Concerned Scientists to the request you made to my colleague Bob Pollard and me at our March 28th meeting. You expressed an interest in having our group conduct a study of the proposed Krypton-85 release from Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant. I am pleased to say we are prepared to take on this task. Our preliminary look at the problem during the last week has already suggested that we may be able to make a useful contribution to this vexing problem.

Our review group will consist of Mr. Pollard, Daniel Ford, and myself, of the Union of Concerned Scientists. Joining us will be two members of MHB Associates of San Jose, California, Dale Bridenbaugh and Gregg Minor, reactor experts and respected critics of many aspects of nuclear power, Jan Beyea, a nuclear physicist of Princeton University and the National Audubon Society and, as a reviewer, Frank von Hippel, a physicist, also from Princeton. It is likely, but not yet confirmed, that Dr. Edward Radford, a specialist in biological effects of radiation, will also join. An aerodynamicist and a mechanical engineer from MIT and a physicist from Michigan State University have agreed to help as consultants with certain specialized problems. We have met with Harold Denton of NRC and have been assured of his cooperation.

Our schedule, tentatively agreed on, is to attempt to have the study concluded in a month. The group will be meeting in Washington next week and a more precise estimate will be prepared. It is clear to us that a schedule extended much beyond a month is not desirable.

Very sincerely,

*Henry W. Kendall*

Henry W. Kendall

HWK/jec