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Dear Mr. Sawyer:

I am writing in response to your letter to the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Harold Denton, dated June 22, 1980, concerning Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1. In your correspondence you requested the scheduling for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) authorization to permit restart of Unit No. 1, and the actions required of the licensee by the NRC.

As you may be aware, the NRC has ordered that a public hearing be conducted to determine whether the facility should be operated and, if so, under what conditions. The public hearing is scheduled to begin this fall. During the hearing, the technical issues appropriate to assure public health and safety will be addressed including a review of the licensee's compliance with existing NRC regulations. The NRC staff is currently involved in the ongoing review of technical information concerning the restart of Unit No. 1. Based upon the current status of the proceedings, the development of a record on which the Commission can make a decision regarding restart is not expected before the early part of 1981.

While the NRC is, of course, concerned about financial impacts on consumers and licensees, the NRC's primary responsibility is the assurance of public health and safety.

Your comments and interest in this matter are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Robert W. Fold

Robert W. Reid, Chief Operating Reactors Branch 4 Division of Licensing

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