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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JUL 9 1980

Mrs. Patricia A. Street
P.O. Box 142
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Dear Mrs. Street:

I am writing in response to your letter to Commissioner Gilinsky regarding your concerns about the Three Mile Island nuclear facility and the actions being taken by the Concerned Citizens of Londonderry regarding the facility. Your letter was forwarded to me by the Commissioner for reply. I regret that this answer to your letter has been delayed for so long. The accident and its consequences have created a substantial increase in the agency's workload, which has prevented me from responding to you as promptly as I would have liked.

With regard to your comments concerning the possible future operation of Three Mile Island, the Commission has ordered that a public hearing be conducted to determine whether Unit 1 should be operated and, if so, under what conditions. Prior to start of the hearings, the NRC staff will conduct a review of technical information concerning the restart of Unit 1. As part of this review, the NRC staff will conduct meetings with the licensee in the presence of the public, and the public will be given the opportunity to raise questions and to make statements. During the hearing, the technical issues that are appropriate to assure the public health and safety will also be addressed. In addition, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has indicated that NRC should consider the psychological impact of future operation on the nearby communities. A copy of the Commission Order that outlines the issues to be considered is enclosed for your information.

With regard to Unit 2, the licensee has not yet submitted to the NRC a proposal for overall plant recovery, although the licensee is conducting feasibility studies. It is not possible at this time to determine when such proposals for recovery may be submitted or how much time will be needed for the required reviews and approvals in connection with Unit 2's recovery. I would note, however, that the licensee's authority to operate Unit 2, except for those actions necessary to keep the reactor shut down, was suspended by Order of July 20, 1979.

Since October 2, 1979, NRC senior staff members responsible for the TMI recovery program have participated in biweekly briefings on the cleanup activities at Three Mile Island. These briefings are sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources to advise public officials, the press, and the public

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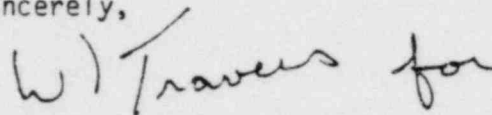
- 2 -

JUL 5 1980

on various phases of the cleanup operation. It is expected that these briefings will continue for the foreseeable future. As you may be aware, NRC has opened a field office in the Downtown Mall, 100 Brown Street, Middletown, Pennsylvania, phone (717) 782-4014. NRC staff will be there at the following times to answer your questions: from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

I appreciate your concerns and assure you that every effort is being made to ensure the continued protection of the health and safety of the public, not only at Three Mile Island, but also at all nuclear power plants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. J. Snyder for". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Bernard J. Snyder, Program Director
Three Mile Island Program Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Commission Order dated August 9, 1979