

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

JUL 1 1980

Dr. Warren K. Sinclair, President  
National Council on Radiation  
Protection and Measurements (NCRP)  
7910 Woodmont Avenue  
Bethesda, Md. 20014

Dear Dr. Sinclair:

As a result of the March 28, 1979, accident at Three Mile Island Unit 2, a significant amount of contaminated water has been generated. A portion of the accident-generated water has been decontaminated through the newly constructed ion-exchange facility known as EPICOR-II and placed in storage in existing Unit 2 tanks. To date, approximately 330,000 gallons of contaminated water contained in auxiliary building tanks have been processed through EPICOR-II and another 140,000 gallons await treatment. In addition, there are approximately 750,000 gallons of unprocessed accident-generated water in the reactor building sump and other contaminated water will be generated as decontamination activities progress in the auxiliary building and, eventually, in the reactor building. The ultimate disposition of accident-generated waste water, including alternatives for its decontamination, will be addressed in the NRC staff's draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement which is currently under preparation. Additionally, I would welcome advice and technical expertise on this issue from respected organizations in the scientific community.

In view of the desirability of having an independent scientific organization such as the NCRP collect, analyze and disseminate information related to recovery activities at TMI, I am formally requesting the Council to undertake a study of the health and safety consequences associated with the disposition of decontaminated TMI-2 accident-generated waste water. Specifically, there are two disposal alternatives which have the potential for environmentally impacting the 50-mile population around the Three Mile Island facility. Those alternatives include discharge of decontaminated accident-generated waste water to the Susquehanna River via the plant normal discharge pathway and evaporation of decontaminated accident-generated waste water to the atmosphere around the plant. Both alternatives would result in the discharge of tritium

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to the environment as tritium is not processable by practical means. Should you decide to accept my invitation to participate in this important evaluation, the staff of the TMI Program Office can provide estimates of the source term of radioactive material discharges to the environment and related technical information.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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