



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

CPDR

JUL 9 1980

Mr. Kevin S. Snyder
31724 Wellston
Warren, Michigan 48093

Dear Mr. Snyder:

Your letters to the U.S. Public Health Service and to former DOE Secretary James Schlesinger regarding your research project on nuclear power plants were forwarded to the Commission for reply. I regret that this answer to your letters has been delayed. The accident at Three Mile Island 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. I hope this information is still in time to meet your needs.

In May 1977, the NRC adopted a resident inspection program. The first resident inspectors were assigned to 15 sites during the summer of 1978. At present, there are resident inspectors at about 30 sites. When the program is fully implemented in September 1981, at least as many resident inspectors will be assigned to each site of a nuclear power plant as there are operating power reactors there. All of these resident inspectors will serve a tour of duty at their assigned plant, followed by rotation to another site, a regional office, or NRC headquarters.

With regard to your concern about leaks, no leak of water was implicated in initiating the accident at the Three Mile Island reactor; rather, some closed valves on the auxiliary feedwater system prevented cooling water from reaching the reactor steam generators when needed. I am enclosing a summary of an NRC report on how the accident occurred.

Nuclear power plants do have warning systems in case of radioactive leaks. They are equipped with radiation monitors placed at strategic locations within and around them to warn of any radiation leaks.

For learning the effects of radiation, you may be interested in obtaining a copy of the booklet "Living with Radiation" (ERDA-76/89) from:

National Technical Information Center
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, Virginia 22161

8007280 293

Mr. Kevin S. Snyder

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JUL 9 1980

This publication gives a general explanation of the effects of radiation.

I am pleased to provide you with this information.

Sincerely,

W. Travers for

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

Enclosure

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31724 Wellston
Warren, Mich. 48093
May 14, 1979

Public Health Service
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C.
20201

Gentlemen:

I am involved in a long term research project on Nuclear Power Plants. I am especially interested in the Three Mile Island incident. I would appreciate if you could answer a few questions that I have to ask, to help me with my research.

1. Why don't A-Plants have full time, assigned inspectors?
2. Why don't A-Plants have an early warning systems in case of radiation leaks?
3. What would radiation do to people?

Your prompt reply will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin S. Snyder

Kevin S. Snyder



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20857

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June 21, 1979

Mr. Kevin S. Snyder
31724 Wellston
Warren, MI 48093

Dear Mr. Snyder:

Your letter dated May 14, 1979, to the Public Health Service has been forwarded to the Bureau of Radiological Health, Food and Drug Administration for reply.

Since the subject of nuclear power reactors falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, I am forwarding your letter to that agency for a more authoritative reply than we can offer.

In view of your interest, I am forwarding a copy of the BRH/FDA publication 77-8004, "The Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation: An Overview."

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Samuel Sperling

Samuel Sperling (HFX-25)
Chief, Information Services Section
Technical Information Staff
Office of Management and Systems
Bureau of Radiological Health

Enclosure

cc:
✓ Nuclear Regulatory Commission



Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

P. Embrey, JUL 6 1979

Mr. Kevin S. Snyder
31724 Wellston
Warren, Michigan 48093

Dear Mr. Snyder:


This is in regard to your letter of May 14, 1979 to Secretary James Schlesinger.

Your questions address areas under the purview of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Accordingly, by copy of this letter we are transmitting your letter to the NRC.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Andrew J. Pressesky

A. J. Pressesky, Director
Division of Nuclear Power Development

cc: L. V. Gossick 
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission

31724 Wellston
Warren, Mich. 48093
MAY 14, 1979

James R. Schlesinger
Dept. of Energy
Washington, D.C.
20545

1630

Dear Sir:

I am involved in a long term research project on Nuclear Power Plants. I am especially interested in the Three Mile Island incident. I would appreciate if you could answer a few questions that I have to ask, to help me with my research.

1. Who was responsible for the possible melt down at Three Mile Island?
2. Why don't A-Plants have full time, assigned inspectors?
3. Why don't A-Plants have an early warning systems in case of radiation leaks?
4. What would have happened if the Hydrogen Bubble exploded?
5. What has other Nations done because of Three Mile Island?

Your prompt reply will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin S. Snyder

Kevin S. Snyder