



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

JUL 9 1980

Ms. Jacqueline L. Smith  
R.D. 1, Box 338  
Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania 17347

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am writing in response to your letter to President Carter regarding the accident at Three Mile Island. I regret that this answer to your letter has been delayed. 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.

You state that consumers should not have to pay for Metropolitan Edison's "greed and mistakes." Metropolitan Edison (Met Ed) customers will not have to pay for any damages to or for the restoration of Three Mile Island Unit 2. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), in a decision and order of June 15, 1979, ruled that customers of Met Ed and the Pennsylvania Electric Company would be free from accident expenses. These customers will, however, be responsible for costs associated with purchasing power to replace power that would have been provided by the TMI facility. The Pennsylvania PUC reaffirmed this decision in an order of May 23, 1980.

In the same order, it also ruled that Three Mile Island Unit 1 be removed from the Met Ed and Pennsylvania Electric Company rate bases. As a result, their customers will be free of all maintenance, interest, and capital cost expenses associated with Unit 1. Should Unit 1 be returned to service, costs associated with its operation would, of course, become part of the rate structure.

While we are, of course, concerned about financial impacts on consumers, the NRC's primary responsibility is the assurance of public health and safety. State public utility commissions and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission have primary responsibility regarding the rates that consumers pay for electricity.

You also maintain that Met Ed hurried Unit 2 into operation to realize a tax benefit "without any regard for the safety of the people." The timing of announcements by a utility that a new nuclear plant has achieved full-power operation status and will begin commercial operation is the result of a corporate decision. The NRC is not involved in this decision. The NRC is involved in the timing of this announcement only in that before a declaration of commercial operation can be made, a company must have satisfactorily completed all licensing requirements and conditions that are stipulated by law

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Ms. Jacqueline L. Smith

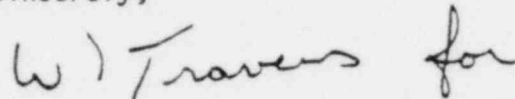
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and monitored by the NRC in the interest of public health and safety. In the case of Three Mile Island Unit 2, Met Ed had already been granted an operating license several months prior to the plant's becoming commercial. Between the time the operating license was granted and the time of full commercial operation, the reactor was operated at significant power levels of up to 100% of rated power for extended periods. The NRC did not participate in the December 30, 1978, announcement by the company that TMI-2 was going into commercial operation.

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 and title.

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

(78)

April 28, 1979

<sup>7</sup>  
NPL  
President Carter,

I have waited until this late date to write because I wanted to be sure I was cooled off. Needless to say I have been extremely upset.

In regard to anyone of us having to pay for Metropolitan Edison's greed & mistakes, & that is all that it can be called, we the people of Pennsylvania should not have to carry this burden.

It is all theirs, let them handle it. We were burdened enough with mental anguish, knowing full well that we might have to leave our homes, possibly never to return.

I have lived in this area for five years, which is 6 or 7 mile from T.M.I., & I would like to stay here, but if Metropolitan Edison Co. is allowed to continue operating T.M.I.

And make us pay for what was their mistake I will be forced to move, possibly out of Penna. The added expense will be to great & the threat will always be there.

It must not be forgotten that they hurried to finish the Unit so they could get a tax break. They did this without any regard for the safety of the people.

I hope that you as our President will take a strong stand in seeing that Metropolitan Edison Co. has to carry the full expense for their mistake.

Let them use the tax break money

Thank you very much

Respectfully

Jacqueline L. Small

Harvill County Side Community

Mount Wolf Pa.