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

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

JULY 09 1980

Docket No. 50-289

Mr. Milton Anderson
763 Mountain Avenue
Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I am writing in response to your letter to President Carter concerning the delay in placing Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1, back into service.

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. The NRC staff is currently involved in the on-going review of technical information concerning the restart of Unit 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert W. Reid".

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

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
POOR QUALITY PAGES.

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MILTON ANDERSON

March 28, 1980

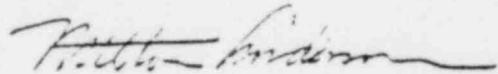
The President of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I wonder who knows most about the hazards of nuclear energy, Dr. Edward Teller or the people who are lighting candles outside of the Three Mile Island plant today.

I believe that Dr. Teller does. His questions and answers about the safety of nuclear energy, as excerpted in the ad herewith, are convincing. I hope you will do everything in your power to get the Three Mile Island Unit #1 back into operation as quickly as possible and encourage the development of other nuclear facilities in order to relieve our serious energy problem.

Sincerely,



Milton Anderson

"I was the only victim of Three Mile Island"

Dr. Edward Teller, the noted nuclear scientist, suffered a heart attack at age 71 following a period of intensive testifying on the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant. Calling himself the only victim of that accident, he prepared a series of questions and answers about the safety of nuclear energy which was published as an advertisement by Dresser Industries in the *Wall Street Journal* of July 31, 1979, and subsequently appeared in other publications. We think his message is so pertinent to America's energy debate that we are reprinting excerpts from it below:

Q. Can a nuclear reactor explode like an atomic bomb?

A. No. Energy cannot increase fast enough in the reactor. For this to happen, the laws of nature would have to be repealed.

Q. What is the risk of nuclear power compared to other forms of producing electricity?

A. It is far safer than coal or hydroelectric power, but all three are necessary to meet our need for energy. It may sound strange to say it... but we know more about controlling radiation than we do about controlling the pollutive effects of burning coal. And, of course, a dam has no backup system to protect those who live below it.

Q. I live within 50 miles of a nuclear power plant. What are my chances of being injured by a nuclear accident?

A. About the same as being hit by a falling meteor.

Q. What about the effect of an earthquake on a nuclear plant?

A. At the first sign of a tremor, the reactor would shut down automatically. Also, reactors are built to withstand enormous structural damage.

Q. Is it true that we still have no satis-

factory way to dispose of nuclear wastes?

A. No. Ways do exist. What we have not had is a decision by our government on which way to go. Waste disposal is a political problem, not a technical problem.

Q. How much radioactive waste materials are produced by nuclear plants?

A. At the moment, about 12% of our electricity is generated by nuclear power. If all of it were produced this way, the wastes from these plants over the next 20 years would cover a football field to a depth of about 30 feet.

Q. How dangerous is the release of low-level radiation from a nuclear power plant?

A. If you sat next to a nuclear power plant for a whole year, you would be exposed to less radiation than you would receive during a round-trip flight in a 747 from New York to Los Angeles.

Let me put it another way: The allowable radiation from a nuclear plant is five mrems per year. (A "mrem" is an appropriate unit used to make comparisons.) In Dallas, people get about 80 mrems per year from the natural background of buildings, rocks, etc. In Colorado, people get as much as 130 mrems per year from the natural background. Among the people (around Three Mile Island) not working on the reactor, a handful may have gotten as much radiation as 25 mrems.

Q. Is there a danger that the plutonium produced by nuclear reactors might be stolen by terrorists and used to construct homemade nuclear explosives?

A. I believe that reactor products can be properly safeguarded from terrorists... Any terrorist who puts his mind to it can come up with ways to terrorize a population that are less dangerous to himself than handling plutonium. The answer is not to get rid of the reactors—let's get rid of the terrorists.

Mobil