



PARASCIENCE INTERNATIONAL

1025 Mill. Lane, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110 U.S.A.

- Larry E. Arnold, director

August 2, 1979

Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

As one who lives 16 miles north-northwest of Three Mile Island (in the direction of the most intense radioactive plume movement following the recent accident there) and who has been challenging for several years Metropolitan Edison's ability to operate without serious incident their nuclear facility, we have to date refrained from addressing you on the most recent (and serious) accident at TMI-2 because we have seen no indication that our concerns would be received any differently than in the damnable and unconscionable way the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board responded to the public (ourselves included) in the licensing process for TMI-2 in 1977 -- wherein Chairman Edward Luton told us (and other members of the community-at-large) that our comments would not be entered as part of the permanent record (Docket No. 50-320) and, hence, were irrelevant to the decision-making process of the NRC.

However, in reviewing the transcript of the NRC Commissioners' July 24 closed-door meeting ostensibly to discuss personnel matters that turned into arguments for and against the introduction of mental health effects among the hundreds-of-thousands who were subjected to TMI-2's novel and reprehensible form of terrorism as part of the decision to return TMI-1 to criticality, we are finally moved to respond.

First, you who have refused to attend a public meeting with Newberrytown citizens in the TMI five-mile radius area because such would prejudice your decision regarding Three Mile Island -- a position we can only interpret as an unwavering pro-nuclear commitment that cannot take into account the feelings and lives of those people most intimately affected by America's worst commercial reactor accident to date -- should remove yourself from any decision-making responsibility in the matter of Three Mile Island. (After all, a trustworthy judge removes himself from a case towards which he has a bias or conflict-of-interest.) This policy should be adhered to by each NRC Commissioner who continues to isolate himself from direct personal contact with the people of this area; after all, one's eyes can speak where words fail.

You can retain this disregard of southcentral Pennsylvanians' concerns and fears about TMI only so long as you maintain your isolation from such personal interchange. We suggest you speak with Commissioner Gilinsky, who to his credit was willing to face the people in Middletown on June 29: he learned very quickly that there are people out there beyond the sanctified walls of the NRC's Washington office, not faceless numbers in some Reactor

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"today's frontiers are tomorrow's understanding..."

Safety Study's accident-casualty statistics.

You owe yourself, and Americans living beyond the kill-zone of TMI, the same experience Mr. Gilinsky has had. Perhaps then you won't place the Nuclear Industry's survival above the safety and survival of the citizens who pay your salary and expect protection, rather than sell them out as you did in 1972 in response to Stephen Hanauer's assessment of "preponderant safety disadvantages" in the General Electric reactor system.

Second, regarding Chief Council Leonard Bickwit's advisement that under atomic energy statutes "public health and safety" considerations in operating a nuclear plant are usually viewed narrowly as physical problems caused directly by exposure to radiation. The issue of public health and safety can be ignored, it was implied, because no such short-term exposure problems have surfaced from the TMI-2 accident. This does not seem at all to be the case, Chairman Hendrie.

Extensive and self-funded investigation conducted by ParaScience International, an organization which examines and documents unconventional aspects of man and his environment, clearly points to hundreds of persons who experienced physiological discomfort or ill-health as the result of radionuclides released from TMI-2 on and after March 28, 1979.

Interviews at length have been held with scores of people who suffered varying combinations of the following symptoms:

- Metallic taste in the air
- Metallic or Iodine-like odor
- Irritated and watery eyes
- Moderate or severe respiratory inflammation
- Gastro-intestinal dysfunction and diarrhea
- Disruption of menstrual cycle in females (also reported during fallout from the Chinese A-bomb detonation in 1977, which fell upon southcentral Pennsylvania)
- Skin rashes (often giving the appearance of radiation burn)
- Sharp, abnormal pains in joints

Before discounting these symptoms as psychosomatic (as Met-Ed did, those few they knew of that is), it is significant that several of those interviewed echoed the statement of a life-long resident of southcentral Pennsylvania who spoke of the days March 28-30, 1979: "I grew up with pollution from coal and lived in Steelton for awhile [site of Bethlehem Steel's foundry], and I never had such severe burning in my throat or that awful metallic taste!"

The only identifiable source for some 'new pollutant' in the atmosphere during this period has been TMI-2 and the radionuclides it released.

Supporting the attribution of these maladies to TMI-2 activity, 1) these reports from points up to 10 miles from the reactor coincide with two confirmed (and likely three) radioactive releases from TMI; 2) those suffering these symptoms recovered (in general) quickly once they evacuated the area around TMI; and 3) the U. S. Government, according to an informant, recognized more than a decade ago a link between the presence of radionuclides and metallic taste in the atmosphere.

Furthermore, PSI's pioneering research into the effects of 'low-level'

... to Hendrie, 2 August 1979

radiation following the March 28 accident has revealed a segment of the population that is highly sensitive to the presence of extremely low doses of radiation emitted by nuclear power plants. That is, there are persons living in the vicinity of commercial nuclear reactors whose bodies function as incredibly sensitive dosimeters.

One can reasonably conclude, then, if a person's physiology is reacting to a plume's radioactive contents that person's bio-processes -- that is, health -- are likewise being affected.

How much radiation was released from TMI? What was its composition? And how much radiation can a person be exposed to before exhibiting short-term exposure problems?

As you know, the NRC and the Nuclear Industry -- and even those various health physics experts who oppose the Nuclear Industry -- do not know the answer to any of these questions. Except that the amounts of radiation released from TMI has progressively risen in the official estimates, while the so-called safe levels of exposure consistently decline as medical science advances --

However, one thing seems less nebulous to us. The response to the claim made during the July 24 meeting at no physical problems resulted from TMI-2's radioactive discharges is, based on our research and in legal parlance, "Beyond a reasonable shadow of doubt, not so!"

Just as some individuals are susceptible to adverse reactions from pollens and certain medications, others seem highly vulnerable to the presence of radionuclides from electricity-generating or malfunctioning reactors.

What percentage of the population falls into this latter group is unknown, as the susceptibility to radiation at extremely low doses (unless the releases from southcentral Pennsylvania nuclear reactors have been grossly in excess of officially released figures) has heretofore apparently been unrecognized (and certainly unquantified). This is an area that should warrant the Commissioners' immediate attention.

The question for the moment, however, is this: Can these persons, and surely others not contacted and surveyed by PSI, be ignored any longer by the NRC -- especially now that their vulnerable susceptibility has been brought to your attention?

Whether or not the mental health aspect is admitted in the consideration of re-opening TMI-1 -- and in our view it definitely should be! -- the Commissioners will be violating their own operating directives as established by the U. S. Congress if they fail to consider the physical ailments that manifested so similarly among southcentral Pennsylvanians and that coincided with radioactive releases from Three Mile Island. And from Peach Bottom's reactors too, we might add --

We shall be pleased to share, in person, the results of our unique and continuing investigations into the physiological health affects and other unsuspected aspects of Three Mile Island's accident on the surrounding off-site population. The physical symptoms cited are an aspect of the accident the Commissioners cannot justifiably ignore, we feel, for the ramifications affect

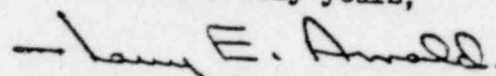
PSI: Arnold to NRC, 2 August 1979

not only southcentral Pennsylvanians but most of the population in America living within the radioactive threat and shadow of 72 licensed (and many more proposed) commercial reactors.

It is time -- past time, really -- that the NRC cease being doctrinaire, and end its pattern of selectively excluding the more discomforting and difficult aspects of the nuclear reactor cycle from public consideration and safety.

With the expectation that the NRC now views its responsibilities to the people more holistically, and is willing to examine the evidence (as unconventional as it may seem to you) of physical health effects of low-level radiation, we remain in anticipation of your response

Most sincerely yours,



Larry E. Arnold, Director
ParaScience International

- cc: Commissioner Victor Gilinsky, NRC
- Commissioner Peter Bradford, NRC
- Commissioner Richard Kennedy, NRC
- Commissioner John Ahearne, NRC
- President Jimmy Carter
- Dr. John Kemeny, the Presidential Commission on Three Mile Island
- Senator Richard Schweiker, Pennsylvania
- Senator John Heinz III, Pennsylvania
- Senator Gary Hart, Senate Subcommittee Investigating Three Mile Island
- Rep. Morris Udall, House Subcommittee on Three Mile Island
- Rep. Allen Ertel, 17th District
- Rep. Bill Goodling, 19th District
- Senator George Gekas, 15th District General Assembly
- Rep. Jeff Piccola, 104th District General Assembly, House Special Committee
- Rep. Stephen Reed, 103rd District General Assembly, House Special Committee
- Patricia Harris, Director HSW
- Robert Reid, Mayor of Middletown
- Drs. Chauncey Kepford and Judith Johnsrud, Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power and Intervenor on TMI-2
- TMIA: Three Mile Island Alert

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

P-302

TO: Mr. Regan

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization) _____

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. _____ FTS
CODE/EXT. _____

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

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Mr. Regan's group
answered at a letter
to Procurement Int'l
(EDO - 7067) - related

RECEIVED BY Matta DATE 8/17 TIME _____

63-109

*USGPO: 1978: 281-184/13

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-76)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

FEMST

FROM: Stephen R. Reed Penn. House of Representatives		ACTION CONTROL	DATES	CONTROL NO. 07115
TO: Chairman Lammie		COMPL DEADLINE	8/27/79	DATE OF DOCUMENT 8/8/79
DESCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		ACKNOWLEDGMENT		PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:
recommends that all available expertise be applied to ascertaining cause of physical ailments of TMI area residents associated with the TMI accident		INTERIM REPLY		<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN
CLASSIFIED DATA		FINAL REPLY		<input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DOCUMENT/COPY NO.	CLASSIFICATION	FILE LOCATION		OTHER: Stallo
NUMBER OF PAGES	CATEGORY	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS		
POSTAL REGISTRY NO.	<input type="checkbox"/> NSI <input type="checkbox"/> RD <input type="checkbox"/> FRD	SIC 78-2333		
ASSIGNED TO: Stallo	DATE: 8/14/79	INFORMATION ROUTING: HENLON, BYAN, TMI Inquiry Group	LEGAL REVIEW	<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> COPY
			ASSIGNED TO:	NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY:
			DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRES BR
				EXT. _____
				COMMENTS, NOTIFY: _____
				EXT. _____
			JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

NRC FORM 232 (11-75)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS
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DO NOT REMOVE THIS COPY

No. 79-2339

Logging Date 8/10/79

NRC SECRET. HIAT

- TO:
- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner | Date _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exec. Dir./Oper. | <input type="checkbox"/> Gen. Counsel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cong. Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> Solicitor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Affairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | |

Incoming: Stephen R. Reed
 From: Commonwealth of PA

To: Chairman Hendrie Date 8/8/79
 Subject: re the physical ailments of people due to the accident at TMI

- Prepare reply for signature of:
- Chairman
 - Commissioner
- Date due: Aug 25
- EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY
- Signature block omitted
 - _____
 - Return original of incoming with response

- For direct reply*
- For appropriate action
- For information
- For recommendation

Rec'd Off. EDO
 Date 8/12/79
 Time 12:30

Remarks: Orig to Docket, Logged Ex-Parte

For the Commission: BITTIE

*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Mail Facility

NRC-62

ACTION SLIP

POOR ORIGINAL