



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HARRISBURG, PA. 17120

REP. STEPHEN R. REED

August 8, 1979

Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, District of Columbia

Dear Chairman Hendrie,

I am entirely baffled by the apparent refusal of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to have extensively reviewed the reports by hundreds of Three Mile Island area residents who, during March 28-31, 1979 primarily, and at times subsequent, experienced:

- (a) metallic taste in their mouth
- (b) metallic or Iodine-like odor in the air
- (c) irritated and watery eyes
- (d) moderate or severe respiratory inflammation
- (e) gastro-intestinal dysfunction and diarrhea
- (f) disruption of the menstrual cycle in females
- (g) skin rashes (some appearing as radiation burns)
- (h) sharp, abnormal pains in joints.

The U.S. Public Health Service and Pennsylvania State Dept. of Health are jointly conducting a survey of TMI area residents to record medical histories so that the full health consequences of TMI' radiation releases in the next 25 years will be documented. That is all fine and should be done. But why is there a complete dismissal by the NRC of any immediate indications of exposure to levels of radiation higher than what were immediately thought the first dates of the accident? Psychosomatically induced ailments are possible with some, but not with hundreds or even more persons and I suggest this matter has been conveniently laid aside.

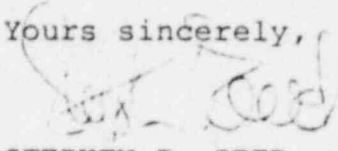
The NRC is charged with ascertaining full details about the TMI accident. You are further charged with knowing the full effects of even low level radiation on populations near to nuclear reactors. Failure to pursue the aforementioned reports from TMI area residents is a dismal failure of your most important safety responsibilities to the tens of millions of people living near reactors, not to mention the people around TMI.

2910240554

Page Two
Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie
August 8, 1979

I therefore recommend that all available expertise be applied to ascertaining the cause of these physical ailments associated with the TMI accident and a completely accurate public disclosure made of its cause and the level of radiation or contamination that people may have been exposed to. The inability of both Metropolitan Edison and the NRC to know even to this day (or at least to have disclosed if you actually do know) the levels of exposure is in itself a major, most serious failing of pre-TMI accident obligations by both parties. And if it is determined that the exact cause of these physical ailments cannot be determined due to the lack of adequate research on the subject pre-TMI, then the public should know the extent to which we indeed are unprepared to deal with nuclear plant emissions.

Yours sincerely,


STEPHEN R. REED
State Representative

cc: NRC Commission Members
Hon. Gordon MacLeod, M.D.
ParaScience International
TMI Alert



Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie,
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC