October 18, 1979

Docket Nos. 50-289/50-320

Mr. Robert C. Arnold, Senior Vice President Metropolitan Edison Company 280 Cherry Hill Road Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Dear Mr. Arnold:

The purpose of this letter is to summarize the discussions that members of the NRC staff had with you and Mr. Herman Dieckamp on October 10, 1979. A list of the participants at that meeting is enclosed. The purpose of the meeting was to reaffirm our growing concerns over the lack of a suitable health physics program (HPP) at TMI and the capability of the present staffing and HPP to handle the recovery projects planned for TMI-2 and the restart program planned for TMI-1. As you know, this subject has been discussed with you and your staff many times since the accident of March 28. Although there has been some progress in upgrading the HPP at TMI, we believe that progress has been too slow to cope with the activities you anticipate over the coming months. As noted during the meeting, we believe there are three major items that deserve your immediate attention:

- 1. There is a need for a total management commitment to make health physics an integral part of the recovery and restart program and not a service provided on an as-needed basis. This commitment has to be conveyed to both the supervisory work force including all contractor personnel at TMI-1 and TMI-2. We believe that upper level management is committed to such a program, but in our opinion, the work force does not have this same degree of commitment.
- 2. There is a need to define and document a radiation protection plan that will satisfy the requirements of 10 CFR Part 20 and the guidance given in Regulatory Guide 8.8 and one that recognizes the uniqueness of the recovery and restart programs. The plan must also implement the ALARA concepts set forth in these documents.
- 3. There is a need to develop, implement and maintain a training program for contractor-supplied tealth physics personnel to assure that these individuals are qualified and trained in pertinent plant procedures in order to perform their assigned 1060 tasks.

Tring the course of the meeting you discussed with us two significant items that would have ongoing , or recently initiated, in an effort to upgrade the health physics

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program at TMI.

1. You are continuing your search for an individual with management skills and a strong technical background, but not necessarily in the field of health physics, to direct the overall HPP at TMI. We endorse and support this effort.

2. You shared with us the fact that during the past several weeks you have engaged two highly qualified health physics consultants to perform an indepth management and technical appraisal of the HPP and the interfaces this program has with ongoing and planned recovery and restart programs. We endorse and support your efforts in this appraisal.

As noted at the conclusion of our meeting, we are prepared to assist you and your staff in defining and structuring a sound health physics program at TMI.

Sin erely.

Richard H. Vollmer, Director Three Mile Island Support

Enclosure: List of Participanes--October 10 Meeting

cc: H. Dieckamp

OFFICE >

BURNAME >

DATE >

R. C. Arnold

- POOR OCTOBER 18, 1979

Mr. J. G. Herbein,
Vice President Nuclear Operations
Metropolitan Edison Company
P.O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Mr. E. G. Wallace, Licensing Manager Metropolitan Edison Company 260 Cherry Hill Road Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Mr. G. P. Miller, Manager Support Services and Logistics Metropolitan Edison Company 260 Cherry Hill Road Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Mr. J. L. Seelinger, Superintendent, Unit 1 Metropolitan Edison Company 260 Cherry Hill Road Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Mr. J. J. Colitz Manager Plant Engineering Metropolitan Edison Company 260 Cherry Hill Road Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Mr. I. R. Finfrock Jersey Central Power and Light Company Madison Avenue at Punch Bowl Road Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Mr. R. W. Conrad Pennsylvania Electric Company 1007 Broad Street Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15907

George F. Trowbridge, Esq. Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge 1800 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

J. B. Lieberman, Esq.
Metropolitan Edison Company
"200 Cherry Hill Road
"RARSippany, New Jersey

Ms. Mary V. Southard, Chairperson Citizens for a Safe Environment c/o Metropolitan Edison Company 260 Cherry Hill Road Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Chauncey R. Kepford, Esq., Chairman York Committee for a Safe Environment 433 Orlando Drive State College, Pennsylvania 16801

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III Office Attn: EIS Coordinator Curtis Building Sixth and Walnut Streets Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Director, Office of Radiological Health Department of Environmental Resources P.O. Box 2063 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

Mr. Weldon B. Arehart, Chairman Board of Supervisors Londonderry Township RFD #1, Geyers Church Road Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Mr. Harry B. Reese, Jr., Chairman Board of County Commissioners P.O. Box 1295 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Mr. Gustave A. Linenberger Atomic Safety and Licensing Board U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

Dr. Ernest O. Salo
Professor, Fisheries Research
Institute, WH-10
College of Fisheries
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

OCTOBER 10, 1979, MEETING

MET-ED

H. Dieckamp, President General Public Utilities

R. C. Arnold, Senior Vice President General Public Utilities

NRC

- R. H. Vollmer, Director, TMI Support
- J. Collins, Deputy Director, TMI Support
- J. Sniezek, Director, Fuel Facility and Materials Safety Inspection
- G. Smith, Chief, Fuel Facility and Materials Safety Branch, RI
- E. Flack, Radiation Specialist, Hdq.

Enclosure

POOR ORNEIMS

OFFICE ...

Alan S. Rosenthal, Esq., Chairman Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

Dr. W. Reed Johnson, Member Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

Jerome S. Sharfman, Esq., Member Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

Dauphin County Office Emergency Preparedness Court House, Room 7 Front & Market Streets Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Director, Technical Assessment
Division
Office of Radiation Program
(AW-459)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Crystal Mall #2
Arlington, Virginia 20460

Mr. Robert B. Borsum
Babcock & Wilcox
Nuclear Power Generation Division
Suite 420, 7735 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Governor's Office of State Planning and Development Attn: Coordinator, Pennsylvania State Clearinghouse P.O. Box 1323 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120 Mr. J. B. Logan, Supt., Unit #2 Metropolitan Edison Company 260 Cherry Hill Road Parsippany, New Jersey U7U54

Mr. R. F. Wilson, Director TMI-2 Recovery, Acting Metropolitan Edison Company 260 Cherry Hill Road Parsippany, New Jersey 07054



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POOR ORNEWALL

OFFICE SURNAME DATE

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