



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

October 18, 1979

Docket No. 50-320

Mr. Stanley M. Gorinson
President's Commission on the Accident
at Three Mile Island
2100 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear Mr. Gorinson:

On September 17th, in connection with a deposition I was giving to the NRC Special Inquiry on Three Mile Island, I became aware of an error in the hydrogen bubble chronology that I provided to you by my letter of September 6, 1979. The error concerns the date and time at which Chairman Hendrie first called me to express concern that oxygen generated by radiolysis might cause a flammable hydrogen-oxygen mixture in the reactor coolant system. As reflected at the bottom of page 6 of the chronology, it was my recollection that this telephone conversation took place at about two o'clock in the morning on Saturday, March 31st. It now appears that my recollection was in error since voice recordings from the NRC Incident Response Center apparently show that the telephone conversation in question occurred at approximately 9:30 p.m. on Friday, March 30th. If you are interested in reviewing the specific transcript that documents this conversation, it begins at page 03-235-CH6/24-EC-11. To correct the chronology, you should add the following entry between the second and third entries from the bottom of page 5:

about 2130 - Hendrie telecon to Mattson (IRC voice transcript) - Hendrie asks for an independent calculation of oxygen evolution rate from radiolysis in reactor - worried about generation of flammable mixture and damaging the core.

If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please advise.

Sincerely,

Roger J. Mattson
Roger J. Mattson, Director
Lessons Learned Task Force

cc: NRC Public Document Room ✓
Mitchell Rogovin, NRC Special Inquiry
William J. Besaw, DDC
All persons listed in September 6, 1979
ltr to S. M. Gorinson fm R. J. Mattson

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