

*Docket File*

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The Honorable Howard M. Metzenbaum  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Metzenbaum:

This letter is in response to your letter of September 19, 1979 for information necessary to respond to Ms. Zell Draz, a constituent, concerning the venting of radioactive gases and the release of radioactive water from the Three Mile Island Facility.

With regard to Ms. Zell's concern about the release of radioactive gases and liquids, such releases are not currently permitted. Before such releases take place, the impact will be evaluated by the NRC and the evaluation will be made available to the public. By this course of action, we will assure that a thorough assessment is completed prior to release of the contaminated gases or liquids and that the health and safety of all offsite population groups will be protected.

An example of the type of evaluation that will be performed is that prepared by the NRC staff concerning the use of EPICOR-II to process contaminated water from the auxiliary building. The assessment only addresses the processing of the contaminated water not the disposal of the water. Prior to disposal, another assessment will be prepared to evaluate alternate means for disposal of the water. A copy of the Environmental Assessment is enclosed for your information.

We hope that this information will assist you in responding to your constituent.

Sincerely,

Original signed by R. G. Smith *for*

Lee V. Gossick  
Executive Director for Operations

**POOR ORIGINAL**

Enclosure:  
NUREG-0591

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| DATE    | 10/18/79  | 10/ /79   | 10/17/79 | 10/17/79 | 10/18/79 |    |