

DEC 31 1979

Mrs. Morris Dortch  
4104 "A" Beechwood Lane  
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Dear Mrs. Dortch:

I am writing in response to your letter of June 10, 1979, regarding concern over the reopening of the Three Mile Island nuclear facility. I regret that this answer to your letter has been delayed. The accident and its consequences have created a substantial increase in the agency's workload, which has prevented me from responding to you as promptly as I would have liked to.

With regard to your comments concerning the possible future operation of Three Mile Island Unit 1, the Commission has ordered that a public hearing be conducted to determine whether the facility should be operated and, if so, under what conditions restart of Unit 1 would take place. Prior to start of the hearings, the NRC staff will conduct a review of technical information concerning the restart of Unit 1. As part of this review, the NRC staff will conduct meetings with the licensee in the presence of the public, and the public will be given the opportunity to raise questions and to make statements. During the hearing, the technical issues which are appropriate to assure the public health and safety will also be addressed. In addition, the Hearing Board may consider the psychological impact of future operation on the nearby communities. A copy of the Commission Order which outlines the issues to be considered is enclosed for your information.

With regard to Three Mile Island Unit 2, the licensee has not yet sent to the NRC a proposal for plant recovery, although the licensee is conducting feasibility studies. We anticipate that a considerable length of time will pass before any proposals or decisions are made regarding Unit 2's recovery.

We have taken a number of actions with respect to all nuclear power plants as a result of the Three Mile Island incident. Specifically, full-time inspectors have been assigned to each operating plant utilizing Babcock and Wilcox (B&W) pressurized water reactors like those at Three Mile Island. In addition, all such plants were shut down and the licensees of each plant were instructed to provide us with additional information about their facilities in light of the Three Mile Island incident. After review of the information provided, orders were issued to the licensees that required them to make immediate plant modifications, to provide additional operator training, and to revise certain operating procedures. Additional long-term actions were ordered to further upgrade certain plant systems, and operator training, and procedures. All of these plants, except of course the Three Mile Island plant, have complied with the orders and have been permitted to resume operation.

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In addition, licensees of all operating plants utilizing pressurized water reactors have been instructed to take specific actions with regard to the status of certain equipment, plant procedures, operator actions, and facility designs. Licensees of all operating plants, including those utilizing boiling water reactors, have been instructed to provide us with additional information with regard to their facilities in light of the Three Mile Island incident.

We are currently reviewing the information provided. As soon as our review is complete, orders for modifications, as appropriate, will be issued to provide additional protection to the health and safety of the public.

In addition to the actions outlined above, as a result of TMI-2, studies were initiated in the areas of emergency preparedness, operator licensing reassessment, loss of feedwater event, small-break loss of coolant accidents, and lessons learned from the incident. In a number of areas work has progressed to the point where additional license requirements have been recommended. A number of these recommendations have been approved and efforts have begun to implement them.

With respect to alternative methods of energy production, such as solar, wind, and geothermal, the Department of Energy is the Federal Agency responsible for their research and development. The NRC considers these alternative methods of energy production in its assessment of the environmental impact of each nuclear power plant as part of our overall review of each utility's application for a construction permit or an operating license. To date, we have determined that alternative methods of energy production are neither technically nor economically feasible to provide the required amount of power at the time it is needed.

I appreciate your concerns and assure you that every effort is being made to ensure the continued protection of the health and safety of the public, not only at the Three Mile Island Station, but also at all nuclear power plants.

Sincerely,

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Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Encl: Commission Order

OFFICE	ANL/TMI	TMI task force	TMI task force	D. Miller
SURNAME	P. Chee	W. Ollivier	S. Miner	R. Vollermer
DATE	Dec 12-10-79	12/13/79	12/14/79	12/14/79

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       50-320 Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Metropolitan    05000320  
 AUTH. NAME                      AUTHOR AFFILIATION  
 DORTCH, M.                      Affiliation Unknown  
 RECIP. NAME                     RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
 DENTON, H.R.                    Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: Requests facility not be reopened.

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~~William~~  
 Mike Williams

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Mrs. Morris Dortch  
4104 'A' Beechwood Lane  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.  
June 16, 1979

Mr. Harold Denton:  
Dear Sir:

I appeal to you, as a man of conscience, to consider the health effects, emotionally, physically and mentally, which will undoubtedly result the discussions of reopening Reactor I and II nuclear plants, to us, in this area is unnerving, to say the least.

Under no conditions, regardless of any governmental guarantees of future safe plants should reactors I and II be reopened, I urge, alternative sources of energy, utilizing our natural resources. I beg you, to consider the most minor risk of another nuclear "accident", to take into account the future of our children.

I thank you for the effort you made calming us during the incident. God Bless you, & leave us beg if you think of us again; oppose the reopenings.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Morris Dortch

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