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Bill Besaw, DC

*B → Stone*

OCT 23 1979

OCT 19 1979

The Honorable Gary Hart, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested during the subcommittee's hearing on October 2, I am forwarding summaries of discussions concerning evacuation on the first day of the Three Mile Island accident, Wednesday, March 28, 1979.

The summaries are divided into parts, 'A' and 'B'. Part 'A' contains some discussions on evacuation involving the NRC Emergency Management Team and NRC Commissioners.

Part 'B' contains salient discussions concerning evacuation by NRC staff members and state officials. Part 'B' gives Pennsylvania's "evacuation alert" status Wednesday morning, March 28, 1979. Part 'B' also indicates that there were rumors concerning evacuation being carried out in some areas.

Pertinent pages of the transcripts have been reproduced and are also enclosed. In some cases, several pages are included which do not pertain to evacuation but which are included so you can identify the persons involved. The transcript pages have been renumbered from 1 through 79 and the pertinent page numbers are listed to the left of each summary.

I trust that this information will be useful to you and will indicate that discussions concerning evacuation occurred on the first day of the Three Mile Island accident.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Lee V. Gossick

Lee V. Gossick  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:  
As stated

OFFICE	EDO	EDO	CA			
SURNAME	TAREHM/slj	LVGOSSICK				
DATE	10/5/79	10/9/79	10/ /79			

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A. SOME DISCUSSIONS ON EVACUATION INVOLVING THE NRC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM AND NRC COMMISSIONERS

SUMMARY

3/28/79

Transcript Pages 1-9 2:25 P.M. Robert G. Ryan, Director, NRC Office of State Programs asks Margaret Reilly, Pennsylvania Bureau of Radiation Protection-- "In the event that they had to evacuate one or more of those counties out there,--who pulls the plug?" Reilly answers--"The County CD (Civil Defense Director)". etc...

Source: NRC State Programs log  
Tape: Day 1, Channel 5/23

10-12 Time Unknown Conversation between Paul Leventhal and John Davis, NRC on radiation levels offsite. Davis states the levels measured are not high enough for evacuation.

Source: Day 1, Channel 7/25

13-16 Time Unknown Conversation between Joe Fouchard, NRC and Brian Grimes, NRC at the IMC and, Commissioner Gilinsky, on the levels of radiation that would require evacuation.

Source: Day 1, Channel 7/25

17-24 Time Unknown Conference call between IMC and H Street (Commissioners Gilinsky, Kennedy, and Bradford). IMC told Commissioners of a radio report that Pennsylvania Civil Defense was ready for an evacuation but that there had been none.

Source: Day 1, Channel 6/24

25-31 Time Unknown Conversation between IMC and H Street (Commissioners Gilinsky and Kennedy). IMC tells Commissioners the radiation levels are a long way from those necessary for evacuation. A Commissioner asks who has the responsibility for evacuation and is told the State has it.

Source: Day 1, Channel 6/24

Time  
Unknown

32-46

Conversation between IMC and H Street (Commissioner Gilinsky and representatives from the different Commissioner's offices). Commissioner Gilinsky is told the level of I-131 is not sufficient for an evacuation and that State route 441 had been closed. Questions are asked by someone from H Street on what levels of radiation are necessary to begin an evacuation and is told thousands of time higher than were present then. Values in the order of 5 Rem whole body would be necessary. Someone also asks if anything had been done about calling the State and asking them what they are prepared to do.

Source: Day 1, Channel 6/24

Time  
Unknown

47-48

Conversation between John Davis, NRC and Senators Hart, Simpson, and others regarding measured levels of radioactivity and how they compare to those necessary for evacuation.

Source: Day 1, Channel 6/24

Time  
Unknown

49-53

Conversation between IMC and H Street (not certain which Commissioners). Someone from the Commissioner's office asked if the measured levels of radioactivity offsite were anywhere near the levels that one should be concerned about. They were told that levels were not high enough for evacuation.

Source: Day 1, Channel 6/24

Time  
Unknown

54-56

Conversation between Commissioner Gilinsky (?) and IMC on what levels of radiation are necessary for evacuation. Gilinsky (?) states that Paul Leventhal has told him that you start evacuating at 1 Rem per hour.

Source: Day 1, Channel 6/24

Time  
Unknown

57-59

Conversation between Commissioner Gilinsky and Congressman Walker on measured levels of radiation and on what levels would be necessary for evacuation.

Source: Day 1, Channel 6/24

Time  
Unknown

Mr. Joe Fouchard, NRC talking to John Austin at home.  
Mr. Fouchard read a proposed press release in which it is stated  
that the levels of offsite radiation are far below the levels  
necessary for protective action.

60-61

Source: Day 1, Channel 6/24

B. OTHER SALIENT DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING EVACUATION

SUMMARY

3/28/79

10:40 A.M. Harold Gaut, SP contacted a Mr. Lothrop of Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). PEMA was standing down from an evacuation "alert" in river towns of Breckenridge Island and Goldsboro at 8:30 A.M. this morning. PEMA presently is in a "lean forward standby" status. Plant advised PEMA that there were no problems offsite.

Source: NRC State Programs log.  
No tape found.

1:00 P.M. NRC Operations Center called by NRC Region II. They had heard rumors that 3 Virginia Counties were evacuating.

Source: NRC State Programs log.  
No tape found.

62-67 1:12 P.M. Hal Gaut, SP called Mr. Jones of Virginia Civil Defense. He was not aware of any evacuation in the State.

Source: NRC State Programs log.  
Tape: Day 1, Channel 5/23

67-79 1:15 P.M. Hal Gaut, SP recontacted NRC Region II (J. Montgomery). His contact on evacuation rumor for Virginia had been A.C. McMeer of Virginia Radiological Health. Counties being evacuated were supposed to have been Pennsylvania Counties (according to McMeer). This report also incorrect.

Source: NRC State Programs log.  
Tape: Day 1, Channel 5/23

1:20 P.M. Hal Gaut, SP called Mr. Jones' Secretary (Virginia Civil Defense) that report on counties evacuation were false.

Source: NRC State Programs log.  
No tape found.

NOTE: Tape transcripts attached.