

TERA

JAN 24 1980

Ms. Helen Vizente  
5036 NE 16th  
Portland, Oregon 97211

Dear Ms. Vizente:

Your letter to Commissioner Hendrie about the future of the Three Mile Island nuclear station has been referred to me for response. I regret that this answer has been delayed. The accident and its consequences have created a substantial increase in the agency's workload, which has prevented us from responding to you as promptly as we would have liked.

On July 2, 1979, the Commission ordered that Three Mile Island Unit 1 (TMI-1) remain in a cold shutdown condition until further order by the Commission and stated that a public hearing would be held prior to restart of TMI-1. The Commission believes that public participation is a vital ingredient in matters related to TMI-1 restart plans.

On August 9, 1979, the Commission issued an additional Order on TMI-1 specifying the basis for the Shutdown Order and the procedures to govern the hearing regarding restart. On the basis on this hearing, the Commission will determine whether any further operation of TMI-1 will be permitted and, if so, under what conditions.

Prior to start of the hearing, the NRC staff will conduct a review of technical information concerning the restart of TMI-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 that 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 that outlines the issues to be considered is enclosed for your information.

With regard to TMI-2, the licensee has not yet submitted to the NRC a proposal for overall plant recovery, although the licensee is conducting feasibility studies. It is not possible at this time to determine when such proposals for recovery may be submitted or how much time will be needed for the required reviews and approvals in connection with Unit 2's recovery. I would note, however,

OFFICE →					
SURNAME →					
DATE →					


Ms. Helen Vizente

- 2 -

that the licensee's authority to operate Unit 2, except for those actions necessary to keep the reactor shut down, was suspended by Order of July 20, 1979.

I am pleased to provide you with this information.

Sincerely,

  
Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Commission Order dated August 9, 1979

DISTRIBUTION

Docket 50-289/50-320  
NRC PDR  
Local PDR  
NRR r/f  
SEP/TMI r/f  
TMI Site r/f  
RVollmer  
JCollins  
JMullin (TMI-42)  
Woliu  
SMiner  
HDenton  
DEisenhut  
RTedesco  
RReid  
DDiIanni  
RIngram  
MGroff  
TERA

OFFICE	TMI/TF <i>Woliu</i>	TMI/TF	TMI Support	NRR:D/DIR	NRR:DIR
SURNAME	Woliu:bmf	SMiner <i>SM</i>	RVollmer	ECase	HDenton
DATE	11/18/80	1/12/80	1/21/80		