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Mr. & Mrs. James L. Hummel
 1397 Meadowbrook Lane
 Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Hummel:

Your letter to President Carter regarding the release of 4,000 gallons of water to the Susquehanna River 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.

All discharges of water to the Susquehanna have been carefully monitored since the accident occurred. Your letter refers to the release of 4,000 gallons of water containing strontium-90, a radioactive element that emits beta radiation. The entire event started as a normal routine release of waste water from the Unit 1 waste evaporator condensate test tank. Prior to initiating a release, the licensee is required by plant technical specifications to sample the contents of the tank and analyze the sample for the principal gamma emitters. In addition, the licensee is required by the technical specifications to take a portion of that sample and add it to the composite sample of all previous batches of liquid releases made during the month. At the end of the month, the composite sample is analyzed for strontium-89 and -90. The licensee completed both of these actions. It should be noted that the NRC does not require that the analysis for strontium be performed on every batch prior to release because the concentration of strontium is normally well below the detection limits of the analytical method and is orders of magnitude lower than the principal gamma emitters, such as iodine and cesium.

On July 26, 1979, the release from Unit 1 was initiated; during the release an NRC inspector questioned the licensee as to whether or not a gross beta analysis had been performed. At that point, Metropolitan Edison management suspended the release and performed a number of analyses. The analysis for concentrations of strontium-89 and -90 indicated that prior to discharge to the river, the effluent concentrations for these isotopes were within both federal and state government standards for radioactivity. In the future, nevertheless, Metropolitan Edison will monitor all water discharges for beta radiation.

I am pleased to provide you with this information.

Sincerely,



Harold R. Denton, Director
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

OFFICE	TMI/TF W ⁵⁰	TMI/TF	Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation		
SURNAME	WOlui:bmf	SMiner	TMI Spt. RVollmer	NRR: B/DIR	NRR: DIR
DATE	1/18/80	1/18/80	1/21/80		

NRR

August 29, 1979

POOR ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hummel:

This is to acknowledge your message to President Carter about the Metropolitan Edison Company.

Since the heavy volume of mail prevents the President from responding personally to each communication he receives, he has asked the departments and agencies of the Federal government to reply on his behalf in those instances where they have special knowledge or special authority under the law.

For this reason we are forwarding your correspondence to officials of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. You may expect to hear from them shortly if they can provide any pertinent information.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Dan Chew
Staff Assistant

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Hummel
1397 Meadowbrook Lane
Lebanon, PA 17042

JLH

NRC

can
Nuke Quest,

POOR ORIGINAL

J. & M. Hummel
1397 Meadowbrook Ln.
Lebanon, Pa. 17042

July 31, 1979

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Carter:

Metropolitan Edison Company is a nuclear catastrophe! What are you going to do to protect the people of central Pennsylvania from them? They have again been negligent of the health and welfare of us by dumping 6000 gallons of water into the Susquehanna River without analyzing it for radiation contamination. This is a violation of an NRC and court order. When are they going to be stopped?

Sincerely,

James L. Hummel
Margaret A. Hummel

James L. Hummel
Margaret A. Hummel

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NRC

for

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