



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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JAN 16 1980

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Orr
7870C Bryson Sears Rd.
Cottage Gr., OR 97424

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Orr,

I am writing in response to your postcard regarding the operation of Metropolitan Edison Co.'s nuclear reactors. 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 comment urging revocation of Metropolitan Edison Company's operating licenses, the utility is licensed to operate only Three Mile Island (TMI) Units 1 and 2. The Commission has ordered that a public hearing be conducted to determine whether TMI Unit 1 should be operated and, if so, under what conditions. 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. It is not possible at this time to determine when such proposal for recovery may be submitted or how much time will be needed for the

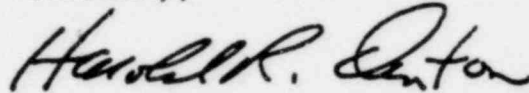
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JAN 16 1980

required reviews and approvals in connection with Unit 2's recovery. I would note, however, 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 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harold R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Encl: Commission Order, Docket No. 50-289