



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

NRC PUBLIC  
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JUL 14 1980

Mr. E. M. Shone  
Plant Manager  
Owens-Illinois  
P. O. Box 279  
Brookville, Pennsylvania 15825

Dear Mr. Shone:

Your letter to Commissioner Hendrie expressing your concern about the delay in restarting Three Mile Island Unit 1 (TMI-1) 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 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 of this hearing, the Commission will determine whether any further operation of TMI-1 will be permitted and, if so, under what conditions. I have enclosed a copy of the August 9, 1979, Order for your information.

The Commission's Order also identifies a number of items that must be resolved prior to restart. These items, which are listed on pages 5-7 of the Order, include but go beyond those required for restart of other Babcock & Wilcox design pressurized water reactors similar to TMI Units 1 and 2. These additional items include those recommended by the Lessons Learned Task Force, which studied the TMI accident.

The Commission carefully considered the time required for completing all tasks related to the Order. (A Commission schedule calling for expeditious handling

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Mr. E. M. Shone

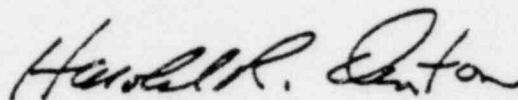
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of the necessary NRC staff and procedural actions required for the hearing process is provided on the last page of the Commission's Order.) Based on that schedule, I do not believe that the restart of TMI-1 could occur before September 1980, approximately one year from the date of issuance of the August 9, 1979, Order.

While we are, of course, concerned about the financial impact on businesses, NRC's primary responsibility is the assurance of public health and safety.

I am pleased to provide you with this information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Commission Order dtd  
August 9, 1979