POOR ORIGINAL

JAN 16 1980

Ms. Drusilla Kosiba
787 Prince Circle
Hummelstown, Pennsylvania   17036

Dear Ms. Kosiba:

Your postcard to Commissioner Hendrie about the release of radioactive gases from 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.

Releases of radioactive gases from the containment building are not currently permitted. Before such releases take place, NRC will evaluate the impact and the evaluation will be made available to the public. By this course of action, we will assure that a thorough assessment is completed prior to release of the contaminated gases and that the health and safety of the offsite population will be protected.

An example of the type of evaluation that will be performed is the Environmental Assessment prepared by the NRC staff concerning the use of EPICOR-II to process contaminated water from the auxiliary building. This assessment addresses only the processing of the water and not its disposal. Prior to disposal, another assessment will be prepared to evaluate the alternative means of disposal. A copy of the Environmental Assessment is enclosed for your information.

We 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.

Sincerely,

|S|

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment, NUREG-0591

OFFICE ►	TMI/TF	TMI/TF	TMI Support	NRR:D/DIR	NRR:DIR	
SURNAME ►	WOliu:bmf	SMiner	RVollmer	ECase	HDenton	
DATE ►	1/14/80	1/14/80	1/15/80			

NRC FORM 318 (9-76) NRCM 0240   ★ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1978 - 269 - 769

H   8002130 /56