

POOR ORIGINAL

Request No. 50-239
320

JAN 13 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commissioner Kennedy

FROM: Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

THRU: *J.R.* Executive Director for Operations (Signed) T. A. ~~Reilly~~

SUBJECT: STATE CABLE - TOKYO 22423 (December 26, 1979)

REFERENCES:

- (1) Metropolitan Edison Company, Radiological Environmental Monitoring Report, 1977 Annual Report.
- (2) Metropolitan Edison Company, Radiological Environmental Monitoring Report, 1978 Annual Report.

This is in response to your letter to Lee V. Gossick, dated January 3, 1980, concerning fission products in the mud sample from the Susquehanna River near the Three Mile Island Station.

The State Cable, Tokyo 22423, dated December 26, 1979, reported that Dr. Nobuya Ogino had announced the discovery of cesium-134 in mud samples taken on October 27, 1979, from areas adjacent to the Three Mile Island site. Cesium-134 concentrations of 105 and 95 picocuries per kilogram of mud were measured.

Cesium-134 is a fission product with a half-life of 2.06 years. The isotope is introduced into the environment from a variety of sources, including weapons testing fallout and routine power reactor liquid discharges. Sediment concentrations of cesium-134 in the hundreds of picocuries per kilogram are considered insignificant from the standpoint of public health and safety or environmental impact.

References 1 and 2 report the results of the Three Mile Island environmental sampling program for the years 1977 and 1978. A review of these reports, which are available in the public document room, indicate cesium-134 concentrations in sediment samples were found prior to the

Contact: *TC*
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Commissioner Kenney

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accident at levels significantly higher than those reportedly found by Dr. Ogino. Based on this, Dr. Ogino's reported results would be expected and provide no new information not already reported to the public.

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: Chairman Ahearne
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Hendrie
Commissioner Bradford
Secy
PE
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FROM: Commissioner Kennedy		ACTION CONTROL	CONTROL NO. 08103
		COMPL DEADLINE 1/13/80	DATE OF DOCUMENT 1/3/80
		ACKNOWLEDGMENT	
		INTERIM REPLY	
TO: Leo Y. Gossick		FINAL REPLY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF: <input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN <input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OTHER: Shea
FILE LOCATION			
DESCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER Re: evaluation of info in attached cable from Embassy Tokyo concerning discovery of fission product in mud sample from river near IJA TMI		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS PRIORITY MAIL	
CLASSIFIED DATA			
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NUMBER OF PAGES		CATEGORY	
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ASSIGNED TO	DATE	INFORMATION ROUTING	LEGAL REVIEW <input type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> COPY
Shea	1/4/80	Gossick	NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY:
		Satch	<input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRESPONDENCE EXT. _____
		Beica	COMMENTS, NOTIFY: _____ EXT. _____
		Danton	
		Stelio	
		TMI Inquiry	JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

NRC FORM 232 (11-75)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS
PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

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