

POOR ORIGINAL

DEC/PDR v/A

JAN 10 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commissioner Kennedy

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

THRU: *Jed* Executive Director for Operations (Signed) T. A. Rehm

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

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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
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