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Ms. Renata Rehm
Mr. Scott Stive
Mr. David Martin
RD #7 Box #666
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Dear Ms. Rehm, Mr. Stive, and Mr. Martin:

I am writing in response to your letter to the Commission regarding the Three Mile Island Power Plant. 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 us from responding to you as promptly as we would have liked to.

Metropolitan Edison (Met Ed) customers will not have to pay for any damages to, or for the restoration of, Three Mile Island Unit 2. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, in a decision and order of June 15, 1979, ruled that customers of Met Ed and the Pennsylvania Electric Company would be free from accident expenses, except for those costs associated with purchasing power to replace that which would have been provided by the TMI facility.

Several NRC staff task forces have been organized to identify and evaluate safety concerns, which originated from the Three Mile Island accident, that merit consideration in the licensing actions for presently operating reactors as well as those for which operating licenses and construction permits are pending.

The task forces' reviews have disclosed a number of actions in the areas of design and analysis and plant operations that will be required in the short term to provide substantial additional protection of the public health and safety. All nuclear power plants in operation or under construction will be affected to varying degrees by the specific recommendations.

A team of investigators from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare calculated the doses to the people living within 50 miles of the Three Mile Island site and estimated the number of new cancers that would result from the exposure to the radioactivity that leaked out of the plant. The team reported their work in a report entitled, "Population Dose and Health Impact of the Accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station" (NUREG-0558). They concluded that the offsite collective dose associated with radioactive material released from March 28, 1979 to April 7, 1979 represents minimal risks (that is, a very small number of additional health effects to the offsite population). Enclosed for your information is the summary of NUREG-0558.

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I appreciate your concern 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 Nuclear Station, but at all other nuclear power plants as well.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Summary of NUREG-0558

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