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Ms. Lynn Chong
Rumney, New Hampshire 03266

Dear Ms. Chong:

Your postcard to Commissioner Hendrie regarding the permanent shutdown of 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.

The Commission has ordered that a public hearing be conducted to determine whether Three Mile Island Unit 1 should be operated and, if so, under what conditions the restart would take place. Prior to start of the hearings, the NRC staff will conduct a review of technical information concerning the restart of Unit 1. As part of this review, the NRC staff will conduct meetings with the licensee in the presence of the public, and the public will be given the opportunity to raise questions and to make statements. During the hearing, the technical issues that are appropriate to assure the public health and safety will also be addressed. In addition, the Hearing Board may consider the psychological impact of future operation on the nearby communities. A copy of the Commission Order that outlines the issues to be considered is enclosed for your information.

With regard to Unit 2, the licensee has not yet submitted to the NRC a proposal for overall plant recovery, although the licensee is conducting feasibility studies. It is not possible at this time to determine when such proposals for recovery may be submitted or how much time will be needed for the required reviews and approvals in connection with Unit 2's recovery. I would note, however, that the licensee's authority to operate Unit 2, except for those actions necessary to keep the reactor shut down, was suspended by Order of July 20, 1979.

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,



Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Commission Order dated August 9, 1979

OFFICE	TMI/TF <i>Woliu</i>	TMI/TF <i>SMiner</i>	TMI Support <i>RVollmer</i>	NRR:D/DIR	NRR:DIR
SURNAME	Woliu:bmf	SMiner	RVollmer	ECase	HDenton
DATE	11/18/80	1/19/80	1/21/80		