

January 31, 1980

Mr. Donald Sells
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7920 Norfolk Avenue, Room P514C
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Mr. Sells:

I attended the public meeting held in Harrisburg, Pa. on January 29, 1980 concerning the TMI-Unit 2 environmental impact statement on decontamination and disposal of radioactive wastes.

This letter was prompted by Mr. Volmer's discussion on the Commission's potential action on the EIA for containment venting which concluded "their decision may be to postpone the decision."

In response to your request for public input, I request that the EIA address "timeliness of decisions".

I recognize the emotional public concern over radiation, particularly in the Harrisburg area; however, most citizens require considerable information to assess the hazards associated with delay of correcting an accident situation. In fact, most persons consider such an implication a threat if presented in an incorrect manner.

If we have an oil spill near a beach we don't bother to prepare an EIA on how we will clean it up and where the trash will go; we know that delay may likely cause increased environmental impact. Any reasonable thought process is equally applicable at TMI-2; the more we delay decisions, such as to vent the containment, the more risk we take that deterioration of components or inadvertent operations will result in increased hazards to the public.

The NRC, in meeting its obligation to protect the health and safety of the public, is prone to react to public pressure and appease the emotional concerns by deferral of decisions rather than provide positive investigation and release of information on hazards associated with design requirements of components which have already been or will be exceeded by unknown margins.

I respectfully request, as a citizen of Harrisburg, that the problem of delay of decisions be carefully and completely addressed in the EIA.

Very truly yours,

Harold M. Burton

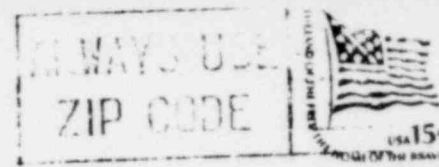
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