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Docket No. 50-320
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The Honorable John Heinz *Senate*
 United States ~~House of Representatives~~
 Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Heinz:

I am writing in reply to your letter of November 30, 1979 to Mr. Carlton Kammerer regarding a letter to you from Mr. William Edelstein of November 16, 1979. We appreciate Mr. Edelstein's suggestions for ways to dispose of the contaminated water inside the reactor building at Three Mile Island, Unit 2.

The first method he suggests, of converting the contaminated water to steam, is basically an evaporative method commonly used in commercial nuclear power plants. This method is under active consideration by Metropolitan Edison (Met Ed) for possible use in the TMI-2 decontamination program. Before NRC authorizes the use of this or any system, however, the staff will prepare an environmental assessment that examines all feasible alternative methods. The staff will recommend to the Commission the best alternative system from among those assessed. The Commission will then render its decision as to which alternative will be used.

The second method suggested, of freezing the water for removal and conversion to water or steam, is not a developed technology. This method would also require the manual handling of contaminated materials at some point in the operation, a procedure we prefer to avoid because of its potential danger to the workers involved. This method also presents potential shipping problems. NRC regulations prohibit shipments of unprocessed water because of the potential hazard they represent to the environment in the event of an accidental spill.

I trust that these answers adequately address Mr. Edelstein's concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by R. G. Smith

Lee V. Gossick
 Executive Director for Operations

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

*See attached yellow for previous concurrences

(RETYPE 1/4/80)

OCA

1/1/80

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| OFFICE ▶ | TMI | TMI | DIR :TMI Sup | NRR:D/DIR | NRR:DIR | EDO |
| SURNAME ▶ | Woliu/mc * | SMiner * | RHVollmer * | ECase * | HDenton * | LVGossick |
| DATE ▶ | 1/ /80 | 1/ /80 | 1/ /80 | 1/ /80 | 1/ /80 | 1/ /80 |

202

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|--|----------------|---|---|--|--|
| FROM: Sen. John Helms | | ACTION CONTROL | DATES | CONTROL NO. 07944 | |
| | | COMPL DEADLINE | 2/19/79 | DATE OF DOCUMENT 11/30/79 | |
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| | | FINAL REPLY | 11/11/79 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | |
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| TO: OCA | | SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS | | | |
| DESCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER | | Ltr from William Edelstein requesting evaluation of his proposed methods for disposition of TMI contaminated waste | | | |
| | | Mark envelope to Attn: David Deisley | | | |
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PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

No. 79-3234

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NRC SECRETARIAT

TO: Commissioner _____ Date _____
 Exec. Dir./Oper. Gen. Counsel
 Cong. Liaison Solicitor
 Public Affairs Secretary

POOR ORIGINAL

Incoming: Sen John Heinz, Constituent Referral
From: William Edelstein
Philadelphia, PA
To: NRC Date 11/30/79
Subject: re proposed solution to the disposition of
the contaminated water fm TMI

- Prepare reply for signature of:
 - Chairman
 - Commissioner _____
 - EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY
 - Signature block omitted
 - _____
- Return original of incoming with response

For direct reply*

Suspense: Dec 11

- For appropriate action
- For information
- For recommendation

Rec'd CH, EDO
Date: 12/3/79
Time: 10:00 AM

Remarks: OCA to Ack

For the Commission: Billie

*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Mail Facility