



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

February 15, 1980

Mr. & Mrs. John R. Cooper
RD 2, Box 134
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Cooper:

Your note to Commissioner Hendrie about the release of radiation from 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 release of radioactive gases from the reactor building of TMI Unit 2 is not currently permitted. Before the gases are disposed of by any method, NRC will evaluate the impact and the evaluation will be made available to the public. The Commission has also decided that concerned citizens should be given the opportunity to present their views orally at a public meeting prior to any approval of proposals to dispose of radioactive gases in the TMI Unit 2 reactor building. By this course of action, we will assure that a thorough assessment is completed prior to release of the contaminated gases and that the health and safety of the offsite population will be protected.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

H

8002290 599