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Docket 50-289/50-320

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February 15, 1980

Dr. & Mrs. Marshall B. Jones
457 Lee Arden Road
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Jones:

Your telegram and mailgram to Chairman Ahearne and to Commissioners Hendrie, Bradford, and Gilinsky expressing your opposition to the restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1 have 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 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 your comments about a moratorium on licensing, there is currently a pause in licensing until recommendations of the Kemeny Commission and the NRC staff investigations have been evaluated and until those relevant to licensing are implemented.

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,

Original signed by

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Commission Order dated August 9, 1979

OFFICE	TMI/TF <i>W</i>	TMI/TF <i>Off</i>	TMI Support	NRR:DIR	NRR:DIR
SURNAME	Woliu:bmf	SMiner <i>for</i>	<i>W</i> ollmer	ECase	HDenton
DATE	2/18/80	2/18/80	2/16/80		