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POOR QUALITY PAGES

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R. D. #1  
Londonderry Manor  
Middletown, Pa. 17057

August 18, 1979

Samuel J. Chilk  
Secretary  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Mr. Secretary:

My family and I live on Route 441 (River Road) in Londonderry Township, directly across from Three Mile Island. This is approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile from the crippled reactor. We evacuated our home on March 30 after the venting (supposedly controlled??) of radioactive gases from the reactor. We were told by the utility and the NRC spokespeople that the radioactivity was minimal. I quote from a press release to the Harrisburg Patriot News of June 22, 1979: "The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was told Thursday that it will never know how much nuclear radiation escaped from the plant at Three Mile Island because the levels exceeded the abilities of the plant instruments to measure them." Furthermore, Albert Gibson - of YOUR staff - stated ~~that~~ that: "all the radiation monitors in the vent stack where as much as 80 % of the radiation escaped went off scale the morning of the accident." Is this what you would call a minimal release of radioactivity? I question these assertions that the release WAS minimal.

On the morning of March 31 at about 9:30 a.m. (having come back to check on our house) I was at the end of my driveway when a State Police car drove up. A fellow with a geiger counter jumped out and took a reading. Upon questioning, he told me that he was from Brookhaven Institute. I asked what kind of reading he was getting. His answer was 300 millirems. Now, my question to you is: was this a MINIMAL dose of radiation? Met-Ed and the NRC contended that the readings into the first few days of the accident were unavailable. What about the Brookhaven's findings, or were they too hot to handle?

Your criteria for an ENO are ambiguous to say the least. We are expected to believe Met-Ed and the NRC as you both state that no damage was done through the releases from the crippled reactor. After the way the situation was handled from March 28 through April 7, by the Utility and the NRC, I personally have my doubts that we are getting a truthful assessment of the facts. Must people be killed and properties suffer irreparable damage to YOUR criteria for an EXTRAORDINARY NUCLEAR OCCURENCE? Certainly, there are other things that must be considered: PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE and PROPERTY DEVALUATION.

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Another thing that I question is the use of helicopters and small aircraft to measure radioactivity over the reactor and the surrounding area. Any person with any amount of perception (especially scientific) would know and see that the action of the blades would actually make any readings taken in their very untrustworthy because of the turbulence created by the rotation of the blades.

I would say that notwithstanding your criteria, I and II that, <sup>to</sup> the several thousand people living within a five-mile radius of the reactor, this certainly was an ENO of the first magnitude.

On March 31, Harold Denton was ready to call for an evacuation of the area. Why wasn't this done? At the same time, you people of the NRC were in Washington, D.C., agonizing over what should be done, all the while trying to handle the situation --by remote control!!! That in itself seems catastrophic to me! I think that your vaunted technology let you down. The people who should have known how to handle the situation were--and still are--very vague about the scientific of the whole thing.

The NRC blames Met-Ed for the accident. Met-Ed blames Babcock and Wilcox. On the other hand, Babcock and Wilcox points the finger at the NRC and Met-Ed. Just where does the accountability and blame lie?

I have before me a pamphlet from the Bureau of Radiological Health, Rockville, Maryland. This is a summary and health impact of the accident at Three Mile Island. Here is another example of bureaucratic "gobble de gook." In essence it projects the average dose of total radiation which was received by the entire population, approximately 2,000,000 people, within a fifty-mile radius of the plant. We all know that taking into consideration wind and dispersion factors over so wide-spread an area would give very low average readings. From what I understand, less than a half millirem per person. Very good! I liken this to a group of ten boys, one of whom has 15 pimples on his face. Now, using the ad hoc committee's reasoning we can say, "oh well, not bad at all. If we average it out, each boy has only 1 1/2 pimples." Terrific! Sounds very plausible doesn't it? Not practical, though. That's what I get from the averaging-out process.

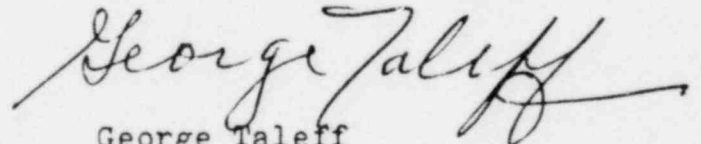
Met-Ed has announced in the past few days that soon they will be releasing radioactive gases from their containment building over a period of about 30 days. I believe the NRC should take a long, hard look at this action, and not let it occur. The Utility claims that this is the most feasible and economical way to dispose of these gases. They speak now of economy AFTER the profligate way they have been spending money the past few years - for high, high salaries for executives, etc. Not one word about the safety and health and welfare of local residents. Also, the plans which they have for treating the radioactive water and dispersing it back into the Susquehanna River should be scrutinized VERY CAREFULLY. These two actions are totally unacceptable to the local public, and must not be allowed. Judging from Met-Ed's past performances, they are sure to foul up these directives; and who knows whether or not it will actually be on purpose.

As for the start-up of Unit I, and the projected clean-up and start-up of Unit II, I have my reservations. How can a company which had a brand new facility, which they fouled-up so badly be expected to operate either facility in a safe manner? In looking over inspection status reports of Unit II for 1978 (test period), I found various reportable occurrences involving cracked pipes due to vibration, malfunctions of switches, bent valve stems, and certain functional tests which were not performed because of technical errors. Now I ask, "Is this the way to operate a SAFE nuclear facility?" My neighbors and I feel very strongly on these issues. We would like to see Three Mile Island closed for good. This means PERMANENTLY. And, Met-Ed's license should be REVOKED.

As an addendum: I would like to point out to the commission that there is no viable or practical plan for the evacuation of our immediate area. There is only one two-lane country road leading out of here to one four-lane highway about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles away. Likewise, the people of Pal-mouth - about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles down the road - would be in the same situation. As for the people on the farms, it seems that they have been completely forgotten. Incidentally, if any of you would like a personally conducted tour of the area, I would be glad to show you around.

I have tried to point out some of our concerns, and I hope that you will take note of them and notify me of your decisions.

Waiting for your reply,



George Taleff  
Member  
Concerned Citizen of Londonderry

cc: Joseph M. Hendrie, Victor Galinsky, Peter Bradford, J. Ahearn, J. Kennedy, Jimmy Carter.