

FEBRUARY 8 1980

Ms. Pamela Walters  
200 Washington Avenue, Apt. A  
Sellersville, PA 18960

Dear Ms. Walters:

I am writing in response to your letters to the NRC and to the Department of Justice regarding radiation doses and new requirements resulting from the accident at Three Mile Island. 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 me from responding to you as promptly as I would have liked.

Your enquiry to the Department of Justice about whether they enforce regulations at nuclear power plants was referred to us. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has investigation and enforcement powers in its Office of Inspection and Enforcement (I&E) for the rules and regulations that govern NRC licensees. The Department of Justice investigates incidents at nuclear power plants if there is any suspicion of criminal activities. Both NRC's I&E and the FBI investigated the accident at Three Mile Island and found no evidence that the accident might have been caused or complicated by intentional malicious actions.

The very small dose of radiation that people in the area received came from radioactive gases that escaped from the auxiliary building. The average dose of radioactivity the population within 50 miles of TMI received was approximately 4 millirems. The maximum exposure to any individual was less than 100 millirems, which is less than the yearly dose each person receives as a result of natural background radiation. Doses at these levels result in less than one health effect over the lifetime of all people in this area. Natural background radiation received by people in the Harrisburg area is approximately 125 millirems per year. To put these doses into perspective, it should be noted that a traveler flying round trip in a jet from New York to Los Angeles receives 5 millirems of cosmic rays in the natural background.

A team of investigators from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare calculated the doses to the people living within 50 miles of the Three Mile Island site and estimated the number of new cancers that would result from the exposure to the radioactivity that leaked out of the plant. The team reported their work in a report entitled, "Population Dose and Health Impact of the Accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station" (NUREG-0558). They concluded that the offsite collective dose associated with radioactive material released from March 28, 1979, to April 7, 1979, represents minimal risks (that is, a very small number of additional health effects to the offsite population). Enclosed for your information is the summary of NUREG-0558.

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Ms. Pamela Walters

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Several NRC staff task forces have been organized to identify and evaluate safety concerns, which originated from the accident at TMI, that merit consideration in the licensing actions for presently operating reactors as well as for those for which operating licenses and construction permits are pending.

The task forces' reviews have disclosed a number of actions in the areas of design and analysis and plant operations that will be required in the short term to provide substantial additional protection of the public health and safety. All nuclear power plants in operation or under construction will be affected to varying degrees by the specific recommendations.

The information you requested about NRC and its functions can be found in NRC's Annual Report, a copy of which I am also enclosing.

I am pleased to provide you with this information.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

- Enclosures: 1. Summary of NUREG-0558  
2. NRC Annual Report

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Apt 2. 200 Washington Ave  
Sellersville, Pa. 189606  
April 24, 1979

Ref / ~~secular~~ nuclear  
Reg. Com.

Dear Sirs,

Basically I am requesting information, research or any other materiel that may enlighten me to what the Department is doing to enforce better regulations that will secure my doubts about NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, because of the the ACCIDENT AT the 3 mile ISLAND IN HARRISBURG. Also I am interested in the research and <sup>the</sup> part ~~of~~ the department played at the site of the accident in HARRISBURG. Please include the amount of Radiation Both myself and the environment was exposed to and the Long + Short term effects of that →  
over

exposure we recieved.

Thank you

Pamela G. Walters