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Docket No. 50-320

FEB 28 1980

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Robic
R. D. #1, Box E-302
Etters, Pennsylvania 17319

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Robic:

Thank you for your letter of February 7, 1980, concerning the program for decontamination of TMI-2. Through letters such as yours, and through my attendance at several public meetings in the TMI area regarding the decontamination program, I can assure you that I have become very aware and sensitive to the concerns of the local populace.

You have asked about clean air standards. There are currently four standards imposed on the nuclear power industry that either control or have implications about releases of radioactive material to the environment. These are: Appendix I of 10 CFR Part 50, issued by NRC (AEC), covering normal operational releases from nuclear power plants; 40 CFR Part 190, the Uranium Fuel Cycle Standard issued by the Environmental Protection Agency; 10 CFR Part 20, Standards for Protection Against Radiation, issued by NRC; and 10 CFR Part 100, the siting standard issued by NRC. In addition, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 are being implemented by EPA to include radioactive releases to the atmosphere.

There is no case where controlled releases by NRC licensed facilities are not required to meet these standards. Any releases that are planned as a part of the TMI-2 recovery operation would meet these clean air (and clean water) standards as they currently exist.

The NRC staff is in the initial stages of preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) covering all aspects of decontamination of the TMI-2 facility and disposal of the resulting wastes. During preparation of the EIS, the staff will carefully consider all reasonable alternatives for each step of the decontamination and disposal process, including treatment and/or disposition of the radioactive krypton in the reactor containment building and the water that has undergone decontamination treatment on site. These alternatives will be fully discussed in the EIS, along with an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Accordingly, the EIS will serve both to inform the public of the overall impacts of the entire cleanup operation, and to provide the Nuclear Regulatory Commission with a thorough evaluation of the options available for each step of the process, so that they can make informed decisions regarding approval of plans proposed by the licensee. In arriving at these decisions the protection of the health and safety of the public is of primary concern, and the effects on public health and safety will be discussed in detail in the EIS.

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Mr. and Mrs. Martin Robic

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There is no intent to release liquid wastes from the TMI-2 facility to the environment prior to issuance of the EIS. With respect to the radioactive krypton in the containment building, Met-Ed has requested permission to purge the gases in containment into the atmosphere under carefully controlled conditions. However, as stated by the NRC in their May 25 statement on the EPICOR-II environmental assessment, and reaffirmed in their policy statement on the programmatic EIS of November 21, any action of this kind will not be taken until it has undergone a thorough environmental review, with opportunity for public comment provided. Such a review may take the form of a special assessment such as was done for the EPICOR-II system operation, in addition to being included as a part of the overall evaluation in the EIS. In any case, alternatives will be fully discussed and considered.

You will be furnished a copy of the draft EIS when it is issued, with the hope that you will provide us with any comments you may have on the steps involved in removal of radioactivity from the facility and ultimate disposition of this radioactivity.

Sincerely,

William E. Kregew

for Daniel R. Muller, Deputy Director
Division of Site Safety and
Environmental Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:
NRC Policy Statements dtd
5/25/79 and 11/21/79

*See Previous Yellow for Concurrences

OFFICE	DSE:AADEP	TMI Support	DSE: [Signature]			
SURNAME	*WRegan:aj	*RVollmer	DMuller			
DATE	2/22/80	2/26/80	2/27/80			