

# BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



MARY PAT CLARKE — Second District

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TO: Mr. Daniel R. Muller, Acting Director  
Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis,  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Members  
of the Commission

FROM: Gail Vivino for Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke,  
Second District, Baltimore City Council

DATE: March 20, 1980

RE: Radioactive Waste Disposal from Three-Mile Island Nuclear  
Power Plant

Members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission: my name is Gail Vivino and I am here this evening representing Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, a member of the City Council from the Second District of Baltimore City.

The reason I am here is actually quite simple: I would like to request that you use the power you have to see to it that human safety and health be given the highest priority when decisions are made concerning the dumping of radioactive waste from Three-Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant. Our office represents some 150,000 persons, who live in a city with a population of 830,000, which exists in a metropolitan area consisting of some 2 million people. Every one of these people, because they live downstream from Three-Mile Island, runs the risk of being contaminated - either directly or indirectly - by radioactive waste which is dumped into the Susquehanna River. Because of this, I would like to present you with the following requests:

1. That the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which you commission to do on this situation be as thorough, investigative, unbiased, and accountable to the public as it is possible to be.
2. That to ensure this, you appoint to the investigative team several independent medical or health experts, preferably with some experience in this field, who will represent the concerns of the general public. If you would like specific suggestions for these positions, we would be happy to provide them.

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3. That the EIS take into account the fact that it has not been proven to many scientists' satisfaction that low-level tritium radiation is not a threat to the long-term health of those who come in contact with it. This point is particularly important because at this time there are no limits on the dumping of tritiated water by nuclear power plants.
4. That the EIS fully explore the alternatives to dumping radioactive water directly into the Susquehanna River. Two viable alternatives would be to either ship the water far out into the ocean and dump it there, thus diluting the radioactivity and putting distance between it and heavily populated areas such as Baltimore, or to mix the radioactive water with concrete to prevent its dispersal. Although these alternatives may be more costly, certainly in a situation such as this the human concerns are far more important.
5. That the EIS investigate all of the possible effects of dumping into the Susquehanna River on both the environment and on the human population surrounding the river and the Chesapeake Bay. This should include a study of the effects of this radioactive water on sea life, since the seafood industry is an integral part of the Baltimore region's culture and economy, and seafood is an important food source for our population. It should also include a study of the possible contamination of this area's drinking water during periods of low rainfall when a back-up system of alternative water sources is used, and could include this contaminated water.
6. That Dr. Wagner, who was appointed by Governor Hughes as an independent monitor for the State of Maryland, be notified immediately when any decisions are made concerning the release of any amount of this radioactive water, or concerning any policy changes with regard to de-contamination or storage procedures. If it is within your power, I would also like you to assist Dr. Wagner in obtaining funding and a staff so that he can put the necessary time and attention into this issue.
7. Lastly, but very importantly, that Three-Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant not be allowed to release any radioactive water prior to the completion of the EIS, except in the case of an emergency as defined by your Commission. They should not be allowed to release water only on the basis of decisions or studies which are in-house and therefore not apt to take into consideration the concerns of the outside public, which hopefully the EIS will do.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

GV/jz