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MAR 19 1980

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MAR 19 1980

Ms. Patricia Estrada
c/o Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County
985 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Dear Ms. Estrada:

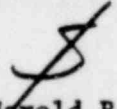
I am writing in response to your postcard to Glen O. Bright regarding the licensing of Three Mile Island. I regret that this answer to your letter has been delayed. The accident and its consequences have created a substantial increase in the agency's workload, which has prevented us from responding to you as promptly as we would have liked to.

Announcements by a utility company that a new nuclear plant has achieved full-power operation status and will begin commercial operation is the result of corporate decisionmaking. The NRC is not involved in this decision. The NRC is involved in the timing of this announcement only in that before a declaration of commercial operation can be made, a company must have satisfactorily completed all licensing requirements and conditions which are stipulated by law and monitored by the NRC in the interest of public health and safety. In the case of Three Mile Island Unit 2, Metropolitan Edison Company had already been granted an operating license several months prior to the plant's becoming commercial. The NRC did not participate in the December 30, 1978, announcement by the company of full generation. All records regarding the field testing of the TMI Unit 2 reactor which preceded commercial operation are available to the public.

These records and all documentation pertaining to nuclear power plants is available in the NRC's main public documents room (1717 H Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555) or in the public document room nearest the Three Mile Island plant (Library, York College of Pennsylvania, York, PA 17405). In most public documents reading rooms, a documents specialist is available to assist you with the use of NRC documents and to answer questions.

I 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, not only at the Three Mile Island Station, but also at all nuclear power plants.

Sincerely,


Harold R. Denton, Director
~~Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation~~

OFFICE	ANL/TMI	TMI task force	TMI task force	D/TMI
SURNAME	P. Chee	W. Olin	S. Miner	R. Hollmer
DATE	2-15-80	2/22/80	2/22/80	2/25/80