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MAR 19 1980

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MAR 19 1980

Bill Yurisich
11364 Masonic
Warren, MI 48093

Dear Bill:

I am writing in response to your letter regarding the accident at Three Mile Island. In addition to the letter I received, your letters to Drs. Donald Kennedy and Julius Richmond, concerning the Three Mile Island accident, were also forwarded to me for reply. I regret that this answer to your letter has been delayed and is too late for use in your project. 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 to.

In May 1977, the NRC adopted a resident inspection program. The first resident inspectors were assigned to 15 sites during the summer of 1978. At present, there are resident inspectors at about 30 sites. When the program is fully implemented in September 1981, at least as many resident inspectors will be assigned to each site of a nuclear power plant as there are operating power reactors there. All of these resident inspectors will serve a tour of duty at their assigned plant, followed by rotation to another site, a regional office, or NRC headquarters.

Related activities currently underway by the NRC include the expansion of the resident inspection program at construction sites as well as at operating plants, the development of an equipment qualification program, and the independent testing of nuclear components by both destructive and nondestructive methods.

With regard to your question concerning the effectiveness of warning systems, nuclear plants are equipped with numerous alarms which alert the operator to abnormal conditions in the plant. If the operator does not take appropriate action, automatic shutdown of the affected system will occur.

In reference to responsibility for the accident, let me quote from the report of the President's Commission on the accident:

"In conclusion, while the major factor that turned this incident into a serious accident was inappropriate operator action, many factors contributed to the action of the operators, such as deficiencies in their training, lack of clarity in their operating procedures, failure of organizations to learn the proper lessons from previous incidents, and deficiencies in the design of the control room. These shortcomings

are attributable to the utility, to suppliers of equipment, and to the federal commission that regulates nuclear power. Therefore—whether or not operator error "explains" this particular case—given all the above deficiencies, we are convinced that an accident like Three Mile Island was eventually inevitable."

As to the responses of foreign countries, the NRC's role involves only the U.S. power industry. However, since information on the Three Mile Island accident is, and will continue to be, made available to the designers and operators of foreign nuclear power plants, they too will benefit from lessons learned from the accident. I suggest you write to individual foreign embassies for more information about their responses.

With regard to your question on the effects of radiation on people, the Department of Energy (formerly ERDA) has published a booklet on the effects of radiation. The booklet is entitled "Living with Radiation," ERDA-76/89, and available from National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161.

I am pleased to provide you with this information.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
 Harold R. Denton, Director
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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OFFICE	ANL/TMI	TMI task force	TMI task force	ANL/TMI-2		
SURNAME	P. Chee <i>PC</i>	W. Oliu <i>WOB</i>	S. Miner <i>SM</i>	R. Vollmer <i>RV</i>		
DATE	2-22-80	2/25/80	2/26/80	2/26/80		

11364 Masonic
Warren, MI 48093
May 11, 1979

Donald Kennedy
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

I am involved in a research project on nuclear power plants. I am especially interested in what happened in Pennsylvania at the Three Mile Island Power Plant.

It would be very helpful if you could answer this question.

What is your opinion of the almost fatal nuclear accident at the Three Mile Island Power Plant?

Sincerely yours,

Bill Yurisich

Bill Yurisich

FDA/CDR
TECHNICAL INFORMATION STAFF
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TO: 110 30 AM 10 18

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