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May 1, 1980

Dr. Bernard J. Snyder, Program Director
Three Mile Island Program Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Dr. Snyder,

Thank you for asking me to comment on the NRC's "Environmental Assessment for Decontamination of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Reactor Building atmosphere." I have read your staff's draft report and I am in with great interest.

Unfortunately, I do not feel qualified to comment on the technical aspects of the report.

However, I am disturbed by one of its non-technical aspects; this is the staff's evident determination to avoid preparing "a separate Environmental Impact Statement" on purging the reactor Building atmosphere through the hydrogen control system. (1-4)

Having participated in both the preparation and consideration of many EISs over the past twenty years, I am well aware of the great effort, and the cost in both time and money, that such a statement would require. Your staff has both my understanding and sympathy in this matter. Nevertheless, an EIS is essential, particularly in view of the great unease that a large segment of the population feels in this matter. There have been too many empirical decisions taken regarding TMI.

If the staff proposals are appropriate, the public should be informed as to their merit. What better way than through submitting an EIS, and letting public hearings develop the support you need?

Sincerely,

Robert C. Sidman

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