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Irwin D. J. Bross, Ph.D.  
Director of Biostatistics  
Roswell Park Memorial Institute  
666 Elm Street  
Buffalo, New York 14263

Dear Dr. Bross:

Your letters of February 28 to President Carter and of March 12 to Mr. Dircks regarding the Special Task Force on Three Mile Island Cleanup have been referred to me for response. In your letters you raise a number of concerns regarding the cleanup activities at TMI-2, in particular relating to the activities of the Special Task Force on Three Mile Island Cleanup. This Task Force was established to evaluate the cleanup operations at TMI, how they are being accomplished, the rate at which they are being accomplished, and assess plans for future activities. Also to be considered were requirements for adequate maintenance and surveillance activities, access to cleanup of various portions of the plant, and the schedule by which these are accomplished. The responsibilities of this Task Force did not include an evaluation of the potential health effects of these cleanup activities. Such evaluations are presently being accomplished by NRC staff members and consultants who, we believe, do possess appropriate professional qualifications.

The task force submitted its evaluation report to Mr. Dircks on February 28, 1980. Mr. Dircks has forwarded the task force report to the Commission with his strong endorsement of its main thrust--a call for prompt action to restore forward action to the cleanup process, including purging of the reactor building atmosphere to the environment. A copy of the Task Force report is enclosed for your information.

With regard to your recommendations for entombment of this building, the NRC staff in Section 4.0 of its "Environmental Assessment for Decontamination of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Reactor Building Atmosphere" (NUREG-0662) concluded that continuing to isolate the krypton-85 within the reactor building is not a viable alternative to its disposal since some uncontrolled release is likely to occur in the future. As you will note, the NRC staff in its Environmental Assessment has determined that the TMI Unit 2 reactor building atmosphere can be purged to the environment and that the environmental impact of this action will be within the applicable Federal regulations and guidelines. A copy of this Environmental Assessment is enclosed for your information.

OFFICE					
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I trust this response has addressed your concerns about the Special Task Force on Three Mile Island Cleanup and the recommended purging of the reactor building atmosphere to the environment.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Report of Special Task Force on Three Mile Island Cleanup, February 28, 1980
2. "Environmental Assessment of Decontamination of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Reactor Building Atmosphere" NUREG-0662 and Addenda 1 and 2.


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