

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION V
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May 21, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: B. H. Grier, Director, Region I
FROM: R. H. Engelken, Director, Region V
SUBJECT: REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AT THREE MILE ISLAND

The following brief report of my activities at Three Mile Island during the period April 23 to April 30, 1979, is made in accordance with your request dated April 9, 1979.

I arrived at the Three Mile Island site at approximately 9:00 p.m. on April 23, 1979, and left the site about 8:00 a.m. on April 30, 1979. During this period, I was assigned as the principal NRC representative on duty during the night shift. Typically, I would relieve Mr. Stello or Mr. Vollmer at about 10:00 p.m. until they returned to the site again the following morning at about 7:00 or 8:00.

During my brief tour of duty, NRC activities at the site were heavily dominated by NRR and it was not clear to me precisely what my authority or responsibilities were except that I assumed I was responsible for all NRC activities in the event of an emergency during the night shift.

I followed licensee activities and plant operating parameters through routine hourly reports from the Unit 2 Control Room and from the IE trailer. I was responsible for the preparation of the daily report and the daily drafts of the preliminary notification supplements (PNs).

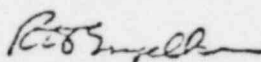
My overall reaction to the assignment was one of discomfort, apprehension, and concern. My principal concerns related to what appeared to be an undefined sharing of responsibility for plant operations between NRC and the licensee, and the lack of definition as to my responsibility and authority under the emergency mode of operations. This arrangement, apparently in effect since early after NRC arrived at the site in force, conflicted rather sharply within NRC's longstanding philosophy of operations, i.e., that the licensee has the primary responsibility for the safety of operations and the NRC assures that the licensee is meeting that responsibility. The emergency mode of operations and its lack of definition of how responsibility and authority were to be shared during that emergency mode, left it pretty much to the man in charge to decide for himself just what his authority and responsibility were. While this may have been unavoidable during the early NRC response to the incident, I felt that by the time that I arrived at the site there should have been better definition of how the NRC was to interface with the licensee during recovery operations.

B. H. Grier

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May 21, 1979

I believe that this ad hoc reorganization of responsibility and authority could result in a potentially hazardous situation.



R. H. Engelken
Director

cc:

J. G. Davis, IE:HQ
J. P. O'Reilly, RII
J. G. Keppler, RIII
K. V. Seyfrit, RIV