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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

APR 3 1980

Nina Mohit
919 East Southern Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Dear Ms. Mohit:

I am writing in response to your letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding the accident at 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 me from responding to you as promptly as I would have liked to.

A team of investigators from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare calculated the doses to the people living within 50 miles of the Three Mile Island site and estimated the number of new cancers that would result from the exposure to the radioactivity that leaked out of the plant. The team published their work in a report entitled, "Population Dose and Health Impact of the Accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station" (NUREG-0558). They concluded that the offsite collective dose associated with radioactive material released from March 28, 1979, to April 7, 1979, represents minimal risks (that is, a very small number of additional health effects to the offsite population). Enclosed for your information is a summary of NUREG-0558.

With regard to your request for information on evacuations in case of nuclear accidents, the NRC is proposing rules that would require the definition of emergency planning zones (EPZs) around nuclear facilities ("Emergency Planning," Federal Register, Vol. 44, No. 245, December 19, 1979, pp. 75167-75174). An EPZ would be defined for both the short-term "plume exposure pathway" and for the longer term "ingestion exposure pathway." The EPZs recommended are nominally 10 miles for the "plume exposure pathway" and 50 miles for the "ingestion exposure pathway."

Emergency planning will predetermine emergency responses within the EPZ as a function of population groups, environmental conditions, plant conditions, and time available to respond. For the plume exposure phase, shelter and/or evacuation are the principal immediate protection actions to be recommended for the public in the 10-mile EPZ.

The NRC/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Steering Committee has developed criteria to upgrade all emergency plans in accordance with the proposed rules. The State/local emergency plans will be reviewed initially by the FEMA staff for adequacy and their findings and determinations will be reviewed by the NRC staff for integration with the licensee's emergency plans and to determine overall emergency preparedness, including evacuation effectiveness.

In the interim period, the NRC is requiring all operating reactor facilities to submit upgraded emergency plans that meet revised acceptance criteria. The revised acceptance criteria require establishment of a "plume exposure pathway" EPZ of about 10 miles. The staff is scheduled to complete the review of all upgraded plans by July 1980.

In response to your request for our reports, several NRC reports are currently available that discuss the accident at Three Mile Island. The reports, their availability, and their costs are as follows:

"Population Dose and Health Impact of the Accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station" (NUREG-0558), \$3.50;

"TMI-2 Lessons Learned Task Force Status Report and Short-Term Recommendations" (NUREG-0578), \$3.50;

"TMI-2 Lessons Learned Task Force - Final Report" (NUREG-0585), \$2.50; and

"Investigation into the March 28, 1979, Three Mile Island Accident by the Office of Inspection and Enforcement" (NUREG-0600), \$10.00.

These reports can be obtained by writing to:

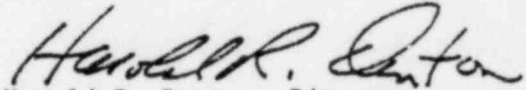
Publication Sales Manager
Document Management Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

All subsequent information about Three Mile Island and its availability are listed in "Title List of Publicly Available Documents: Three Mile Island - Docket 50-320" (NUREG-0568), its revision, NUREG-0568, Revision 1, and Supplement 1 to Revision 1. These title lists can be obtained from the Publication Sales Manager at the above address for \$4.50, \$5.50, and \$4.00, respectively.

I am enclosing a summary of NUREG-0600, "Investigation into the March 28, 1979 Three Mile Island Accident by the Office of Inspection and Enforcement," in addition to the summary of NUREG-0558.

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

Encls: Summary of NUREG-0558
Summary of NUREG-0600