



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

8005150117

APR 3 1980

Mrs. Vera E. Sugar
311 Aspen Street
Middletown, PA 17057

Dear Mrs. Sugar:

I am writing in response to your letter concerning the effect of Three Mile Island on your family's activities. 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.

I can understand your anxiety about possible radiation exposure from Three Mile Island. I am enclosing for your information the summary of a report that specifically addresses the question you asked about any health effects that may result from radiation exposure caused by the accident. The report was written by an Interagency Task Force from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Environmental Protection Agency. You will note that the radiation dose received by the general public should not be a cause for health concerns. Your family physician should be able to assist with your other health needs.

The only classes of claims arising out of the Three Mile Island accident that the two insurance pools--American Nuclear Insurance (ANI) and Mutual Atomic Energy Liability Underwriters (MAELU)--have been allowed by the Federal District Court for the middle district of Pennsylvania to pay are claims for evacuation costs and lost wages incurred by pregnant women, preschool age children and their families living within a five-mile radius of the Three Mile Island plant. Those persons believing that they have incurred a legitimate expense as a result of the accident should submit their claims to the insurance pools. Payment of the claims will then depend on the decision made by the court. The claims should be submitted to the following address:

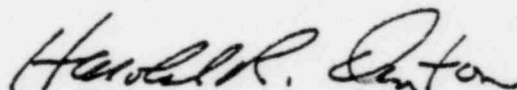
American Nuclear Insurers
ATTN: Mr. William Carrier
The Exchange, Suite 245
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, Connecticut 06032

The Commission has ordered that a public hearing be conducted to determine whether the facility should be operated and, if so, under what conditions restart of Unit 1 would take place. Prior to start of the hearings, the NRC staff will conduct a review of technical information concerning the restart of

Unit 1. As part of this review, the NRC staff will conduct meetings with the licensee in the presence of the public, and the public will be given the opportunity to raise questions and to make statements. During the hearing, the technical issues which are appropriate to assure the public health and safety will also be addressed. In addition, the Hearing Board may consider the psychological impact of future operation on the nearby communities.

As for Unit 2, the licensee has not yet sent to the NRC a proposal for plant recovery, although the licensee is conducting feasibility studies. It is not possible at this time to determine when such proposals for recovery may be submitted or how much time will be needed for the required reviews and approvals in connection with Unit 2's recovery. I would note, however, that the licensee's authority to operate Unit 2, except for those actions necessary to keep the reactor shut down, was suspended by Order of July 20, 1979.

Sincerely,



Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Encl: Summary of NUREG-0558