



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

APR 3 1980

Monique Orta  
13230 13 Mile Road  
Warren, MI 48093

Dear Ms. Orta:

I am writing in response to your letter to Mr. Charles Curtis requesting information on the Three Mile Island accident. I regret that this answer to your letter has been delayed and is probably too late for use in your project. 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. Nevertheless, I hope this information can be of use to you in the future.

To answer your questions about the effect of radiation on people, I suggest that you read the booklet "Living with Radiation" (ERDA-76/89), which gives a general explanation of the effects of radiation. This may be obtained by contacting:

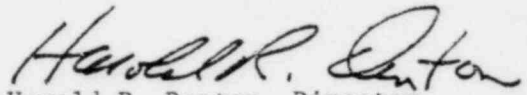
National Technical Information Center  
5285 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22161

With regard to your question on whether or not the people in the area were aware that such an accident could occur, prior to the licensing of a commercial nuclear power plant, utilities such as Metropolitan Edison Company must analyze various hypothetical accidents in an Environmental Report. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) assesses these analyses in an Environmental Statement. In addition, the NRC has performed a study to quantitatively analyze the risks from accidents at reactors. This "Reactor Safety Study" was released on October 30, 1975. All of these documents are available for public review in the NRC Public Documents Room in Washington, DC.

In addition to the preparation of environmental reports, the utility which is applying for a license for a commercial nuclear power plant must hold public meetings. During these meetings the public can ask questions and express opinions about the proposed plants. The NRC requires that such meetings be held in order both to inform the local public and to hear local concerns which may affect the licensing process.

I am enclosing summaries of two NRC reports that I believe you will find interesting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Encl: Summary of NUREG-0558  
Summary of NUREG-0600

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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN  
JUN 7 4 47 PM '79  
FEDERAL ENERGY  
REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

Charles B. Curtis  
Dept. of Energy  
Fed. Energy Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20545  
TNC

Dear Mr Curtis

I would like to find out more information about the 3-mile island accident for a project I'm working on. Could you please answer the following questions:

1. What effect does radiation have on the people?
2. Were the people in the area aware that this sort of accident could happen?

Could you please answer the questions as soon as possible. Thank You

Sincerely  
Monique Orta

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