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

APR 3 1980

Ms. Mary Cameron  
General Delivery  
Refton, PA 17568

Dear Ms. Cameron:

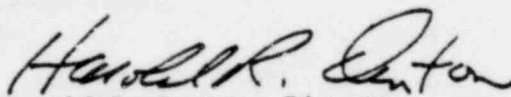
I am writing in response to your postcard to Chairman Hendrie concerning the Three Mile Island accident. I regret that this answer to your letter has been delayed. The accident and its consequences have created a substantial increase in the agency's workload, which has prevented me from responding to you as promptly as I would have liked to.

With regard to the impact of the reactor shutdown on consumer prices for electricity, Metropolitan Edison (Met Ed) customers will not have to pay for any damages to, or for the restoration of, Three Mile Island Unit 2. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, in a decision and order of June-15, 1979, ruled that customers of Met Ed and the Pennsylvania Electric Company would be free from accident expenses, except for those costs associated with purchasing power to replace power that would have been provided by the TMI facility.

While we are, of course, concerned about financial impacts on consumers, the NRC's primary responsibility is the assurance of public health and safety. State public utility commissions and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission have primary responsibility regarding the rates that consumers pay for electricity. They should be able to provide information for your use.

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