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

APR 3 1980

Judy Peffer
RD 2, Box 2210
Etters, PA 17319

Dear Ms. Peffer:

I am writing in response to your letter to Commissioner Hendrie 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.

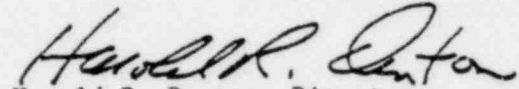
To answer your question on training of personnel at nuclear plants, the utilities have the primary responsibility for training their personnel for an operator's licensing examination that is given by the NRC. Operator training had not previously addressed the system and operator response to the set of conditions experienced during the March 28, 1979 transient. As a result, all licensed operators at Babcock and Wilcox facilities received special training and a written examination on the transient. Additionally, these operators attended training sessions on the Babcock and Wilcox simulator to reinforce the operator response required during similar transient situations. All training was completed before operators could resume their duties during power operations. Long-term commitments on operator training and licensing are being developed by NRC's Operating Licensing Branch.

No, it is not true that presidential advisors censored my statements and press releases. The facts have been reported by the President's Commission on the accident, namely, that

"in accordance with an informal agreement worked out between Governor Thornburgh and the White House, the release of information was centralized beginning on the third day of the accident. Under the agreement, Harold Denton of the NRC would issue all statements from the site on plant status; the Governor's office would be the sole source of comment on protective action and evacuation; and the White House would coordinate comment on the federal emergency relief effort."

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