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

JUN 9 1980

The Honorable William Goodling
United States House of
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Goodling:

I am writing in response to your note of April 9, 1980, regarding the letter of April 2, 1980, from your constituent Helen M. Hocker. Mrs. Hocker expressed general concern with health costs and financial costs associated with the Three Mile island Unit 2 (TMI-2) accident and its cleanup.

It should be emphasized that the Federal government has not assumed financial liability for TMI cleanup costs. These costs in fact are being carried by Metropolitan Edison Company. A portion of the costs resulting from the accident have been covered by a property insurance policy held by Metropolitan Edison.

Since the accident, there has been heavy involvement by Federal agencies. The NRC, for example, has continued to maintain an on-site presence at TMI in order to review proposed cleanup plans and to carry out its responsibility to protect the public health and safety. I would note that the Federal government's liability following a nuclear power plant accident as stipulated in the Price-Anderson Act would require Congressional action to amend. For your information the Price-Anderson Act which is embodied in Section 170 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, was recently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in Duke Power Company v. Carolina Environmental Study Group, Inc., et al., 438 U.S. 59 (1978).

Regarding TMI related health effects, 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 reported 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 the summary of NUREG-0558.

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In addition I have enclosed Addendum 1 to NUREG-0662 which presents a list of ongoing psychological stress studies in the TMI area.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T. A. Rehm

William J. Dircks, Acting
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:

- 1. Incoming letter dated 4/2/80
- 2. Summary of NUREG-0558
- 3. Addendum 1 to NUREG-0662

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