

TERA

June 9, 1980

The Honorable Steven R. Reed
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mr. Reed:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 1980 expressing your concern about the proposed purging of the krypton-85 (Kr-85) from the Three Mile Island Unit 2 (TMI-2) reactor building. Your letter also recommended the formation of a citizen group to provide an independent assessment of the purging proposal.

The Commission shares your concern and the possible effects of such a purge on the physical and mental well-being of the people in the immediate vicinity of the reactor.

The Commission has not reached a decision on how best to remove the Kr-85 contained in the reactor building but expects to do so in the near future. I noted that you suggested the Union of Concerned Scientists be asked to review the venting proposal. As you know, Governor Thornburgh did make such a request and also asked the NRC to extend the comment period on the draft Environmental Assessment, which we did.

We have now under consideration the NRC staff's Final Environmental Assessment for the Decontamination of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Reactor Building Atmosphere (NUREG-0662). We have also received a staff briefing on this document, a copy of which is enclosed for your information. This final assessment analyzes the recommendations of the Union of Concerned Scientists and Governor Thornburgh, as well as all other relevant reports and more than 700 public comments received in response to the solicitation for comments on the staff's draft assessment issued in March 1980.

On May 15, 1980, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs reported on the NRC's FY 1981 Authorization legislation. As part of their action, the Committee included a provision which would establish a Three Mile Island Advisory Panel "to consult with and make recommendations to the Commission on matters relating to the decontamination of the TMI-2 reactor." The proposed legislative language requiring NRC to establish such an Advisory Panel is enclosed.

We are now in the process of determining the most expeditious way to carry out this Committee provision. The Commission is proceeding on the basis of its present authority to establish such a panel and is exploring an appropriate mechanism for selecting panelists and drafting a suitable procedure

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under which the panel would operate. The panel will not, however, be established in time to review and submit recommendations of the removal of the Kr-85. We will work closely with the panel and thoroughly review and consider its recommendations in formulating our decisions on the remaining issues associated with the TMI-2 decontamination effort.

Your letter also referenced the "Heidelberg Study" which was a radio-ecological assessment of the WHYL nuclear power plant located in the Federal Republic of Germany. I have enclosed a copy of a letter which we sent to Representative McCormack in February of this year regarding this report. A copy of the NRC staff's draft detailed evaluation of the report will be available for public comment in about two weeks. We will forward a copy of the staff draft upon publication.

Again, thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
John F. Ahearne

John F. Ahearne

Enclosures:
As Stated

Distribution:
WJDircks
EKCornell
TAREhm
EDO 8716
HShapar
HDenton
Ann Ferguson
Rweller
BSynder

Cleared with all Cmr.' Offices by SECY C/R
Redrafted in SECY to incorporate Cmr. comments and update.
Typed in final in SECY C/R

OFFICE ▶	EDO/NRR	SECY			
SURNAME ▶	Rweller	TCombs <i>TAC</i>			
DATE ▶		6/9/80			

The Honorable Stephen P. Reed
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mr. Reed:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 1980, expressing your concern about the proposed purging of the Kr-85 contaminated atmosphere contained in the Three Mile Island Unit 2 reactor building.

First, let me state that the Commissioners have not rendered a decision concerning the NRC staff recommendation for controlled reactor building purging as described in the Environmental Assessment of Decontamination of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Reactor Building Atmosphere (NUREG-0662), issued March, 1980. A copy of NUREG-0662 and Addenda 1 and 2 thereto are enclosed for your information. Please note that the Environmental Assessment does include consideration of alternative methods for heating the reactor building atmosphere. Second, at Governor Thornburgh's suggestion, the NRC extended the period for public comment on the aforementioned Environmental Assessment to May 16. The Governor requested this extension in order to provide a study group of the Union of Concerned Scientists an opportunity to conduct an independent review of the alternatives considered for the disposition of the contaminated reactor building atmosphere, including the alternative of reactor building purging as recommended by the NRC staff.

We agree that citizen input and independent assessment are very important factors in our decision-making process and we intend to evaluate the forthcoming recommendations from Governor Thornburgh and the Union of Concerned Scientists before we make a final decision on this issue.

Sincerely,

John F. Ahearne
Chairman

Enclosure:
NUREG-0662
with Addenda

Retyped in Office of the EDO 5/16 to correct typos & other minor errors - see previous yellows f/concurrences

OFFICE →	TMI:PO	DIR/TMI:PO	ELD	NRR	NRR	EDO <i>WJD</i>
SURNAME →	RWeller:hmt: dmm	BSynder	LChandler	EGCase	HRDenton	WJDircks
DATE →	5/16/80	(4/29/80)	(5/2/80)	(5/15/80)	(5/15/80)	5/19/80

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Cornell	GErtter (EDO #8716)
TRehm	MGroff
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HDenton	DDiIanni
ECase	RReid

The Honorable Stephen R. Reed
 Member—Pennsylvania
 House of Representatives
 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mr. Reed:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 1980, expressing your concern about the proposed purging of the Kr-85 contaminated atmosphere contained in the Unit 2 reactor building.

First, let me state that the Commissioners have not rendered a decision concerning the NRC staff recommendation for controlled reactor building purging as described in the Environmental Assessment of Decontamination of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Reactor Building Atmosphere (NUREG-0662), issued March, 1980. A copy of NUREG-0662 and Addenda 1 and 2 thereto are enclosed for your information. Please note that the Environmental Assessment does include consideration of alternative methods for heating the reactor building atmosphere. Second, Governor Thornburg has requested and the NRC has under review a suggestion to extend the period for public comment on the aforementioned Environmental Assessment to May 16. The Governor requested this extension in order to provide a study group of the Union of Concerned Scientists an opportunity to conduct an independent review of the alternatives considered for the disposition of the contaminated reactor building atmosphere, including the alternative of reactor building purging as recommended by the NRC staff.

We agree that citizen input and independent assessment are very important factors in our decision-making process and we intend to evaluate the forthcoming recommendations from Governor Thornburgh and the Union of Concerned Scientists before we make a final decision on this issue.

Sincerely,

John F. Ahearne
 Chairman

OCM

OCA

*NOTE: SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR CONCURRENCE

5/ /80

5/ /80

OFFICE ▶	TMI:PO	DIR/TMI:PO	OELD	DIR/NRR	DIR/NRR	EDO
SURNAME ▶	*RWeller/hmt	*BSnyder	*LJChandler	EGCase	HRDenton	
DATE ▶	4/29/80	4/29/80	5/2/80	5/15/80	5/17/80	5/ /80

DISTRIBUTION:

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Gertter (EDO #8716)
MGroff
PKreutzer
DDianni
RReid

The Honorable Stephen R. Reed
Member, Pennsylvania
House of Representatives
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mr. Reed:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 1980, expressing your concern about the proposed purging of the Kr-85 contaminated atmosphere contained in the Unit 2 reactor building.

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Second, Governor Thornburg has requested and the NRC has under review a suggestion to extend the period for public comment on the aforementioned *NUREG-0662 and Addenda* Environmental Assessment to May 16. The Governor requested this extension in *1 and 2* order to provide a study group of the Union of Concerned Scientists an *alternate* opportunity to conduct an independent review of the alternatives considered for *outlined* the disposition of the contaminated reactor building atmosphere, including the *for your* alternative of ~~containment~~ purging as recommended by the NRC staff. *Please note that the Environmental Assessment does include consideration of methods for keeping the reactor building atmosphere.*

We agree that citizen input and independent assessment are very important factors in our decision-making process and we intend to evaluate the forthcoming recommendations from Governor Thornburgh and the Union of Concerned Scientists before we make a final decision on this issue.

Sincerely,

John F. Ahearne

OCM

*NOTE: SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR CONCURRING

OFFICE	TMI:Pro. Off.	DIR/TMI:PO	OELD	D/DIR:NRR	DIR:NRR	EDO
SURNAME	*RWeller/hmt	BJSnyder	WCHANOLE	EGCase	HRDenton	
DATE	4/29/80	4/1/80	5/2/80	4/ /80	4/ /80	4/ /80

Final Environmental Assessment for Decontamination of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Reactor Building Atmosphere

Final NRC Staff Report

TMI Support Staff
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Prepared for
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission



DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

Entire document previously
entered into system under:

ANO 8003280641

No. of pages: 34



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

February 20, 1980

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Mike McCormack
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
Research and Production
Committee on Science and Technology
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McCormack:

This is a response to your letter of November 13, 1979, requesting NRC's assessment of the article, "A New German Study Challenges the NRC's Assurances," written by free-lance writer Dick Bruckenfeld, which appeared in the Washington Post on November 11, 1979. The article concludes that NRC seriously underestimates radiation doses to the public from nuclear power reactors. According to Mr. Bruckenfeld, our dose estimates are based on fraudulent experiments, and we do not require adequate radiation monitoring. His assertions are incorrect.

The article refers to a report of a study by a group at the University of Heidelberg. In July 1978, an NRC staff member obtained a copy of this report, which is written in German, from the Swiss Federal Office of Energy. The report is entitled, "Radioecological Assessment of the WYHL Nuclear Power Plant," dated May 1978, and is authored by the Department of Environmental Protection of the University of Heidelberg. Preliminary discussions with Swiss scientists indicated that the report showed high values for calculated doses to people, but did not include environmental measurements to support the corresponding predictions of high concentrations of radionuclides in environmental media. Because NRC has environmental measurement data to support lower dose estimates, we saw no immediate need for translation and detailed review of the document. Subsequently, a petition to the NRC included a request for comment on the report. In November 1978, the report was submitted for translation into English so that the technical content of the report could be fully reviewed and evaluated. The translation was completed by February 1979, and is identified as NRC Translation 520 (TIDC 520). For brevity, this report is referred to as the "WYHL report" in the following discussion.

The NRC staff distributed the translation to interested parties and honored all requests for copies of the translation until one of the authors of the report informed the NRC staff that the report was copyrighted. We then requested and eventually received permission to make available a corrected translation of the report. A copy of the corrected translation has been placed in the NRC Public Document Room. A copy of the translation

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

Entire document previously
entered into system under:

ANO 8003060568

No. of pages: 5

STEPHEN R. REED, MEMBER
THE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 29, 1980

Honorable John Ahearne, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, District of Columbia 20555

Dear Chairman Ahearne,

As you already know, there is considerable opposition to the present NRC-Metropolitan Edison Company plan to vent radioactive Krypton 85 into the atmosphere around Three Mile Island.

The full effects of low level radiation are not known as yet and the NRC nor Met Ed cannot guarantee the public's health from the exposure you now plan. Moreover, the last thirty years indicates a series of instances wherein "low level radiation exposures" brought about serious health impact, such as what happened in Utah.

The standards used by the NRC and Met Ed to measure radiation and exposures to it have been, in part, discredited by recently released review entitled the Heidelberg Study, and there is therefore doubt as to the accuracy or validity of the Krypton venting plan's estimates regarding exposure.

There are options to your plan to vent Krypton which have not been explored by independent assessment. I strongly favor having a citizen group dominated independent assessment capability, but to put that fully in place takes additional time.

In view of your plans to vent Krypton beginning in April, I am writing to request that you immediately suspend those plans to allow time for an already in-place independent assessment to take place by such a noted group as the Union of Concerned Scientists.

I have not ascertained the availability of the Union for this purpose, although a number of their members were in Harrisburg this weekend for the TMI rally at the Capitol Complex.

It would not take a great deal of time to "crank up" the Union of Concerned Scientists to get busy on reviewing the

March 29, 1980
Honorable John Ahearne
Page Two

Krypton 85 venting plan, I would imagine, but there is no point in contacting them about it if the NRC is not willing to suspend its plan now. That is why I am writing.

I do believe that independent assessment is important to the other phases of decontamination of Three Mile Island's Unit 2 and the citizen dominated effort, utilizing non-NRC and non-Met Ed personnel and expertise for that purpose, remains an agenda item for me, but for now suspension of the venting for Union review purposes is a more immediate need.

I appreciate your consideration of this suggestion.

The question is not whether Unit 2's Containment Building should be decontaminated, but rather how it will be done. It is on that point that local opinion runs strong and independent assessment would lend credibility to whatever finally results.

Yours sincerely,



STEPHEN R. REED
State Representative

cc: John Collins