DD-80-21

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
HAROLD R. DENTON, DIRECTOR

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY (Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2)	)	Docket No. 50-320 (10 CFR 2.206)

DIRECTOR'S DECISION UNDER 10 CFR 2.206

In a petition dated August 9, 1979, the Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York (ANGRY) of York, Pennsylvania, requested that the Commission issue an environmental impact statement prior to issuing any authorization to vent radioactive gases from the containment building of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 2. ANGRY was informed by letters from the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation dated September 6, 1979, and from the Secretary of the Commission dated October 12, 1979, that ANGRY's petition would be considered under 10 CFR 2.206 of the Commission's regulations. A notice was published in the Federal Register, 44 Fed. Reg. 53593 (1979), that ANGRY's petition was being treated pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206.

The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation issued a draft report in March 1980 entitled "Environmental Assessment for Decontamination of Three Mile Island Unit 2 Reactor Building Atmosphere" (NUREG-0662). ANGRY was provided a copy of the Staff's environmental assessment. The assessment discussed five alternative methods for decontaminating the reactor building atmosphere and recommended that the building atmosphere be decontaminated by purging the environment through the building's hydrogen control system. Based on the Staff's estimate of doses to the public from releases during the decontamination by purging and on the Staff's estimate of

occupational dose, the Staff concluded that this action did not constitute a significant environmental impact and that the environmental impacts for each of the alternative methods would be less than those considered in the TMI-2 Final Environmental Statement (1972) (reissued as NUREG-0552, April 1979). Accordingly, the Staff did not propose to prepare an environmental impact statement on the action to decontaminate the reactor building atmosphere.

Two addenda were issued to the Staff's assessment. Addendum 1 referenced studies that have been undertaken on the issue of psychological stress. Addendum 2 considered a variation in the recommended purging method for decontamination of the reactor building atmosphere. The variation would involve more rapid purging and would be permitted only under meterological conditions favorable to atmospheric dispersion. Addendum 2 recommended that the reactor building atmosphere be decontaminated by more rapid purging using the reactor building purge system in conjunction with the building's hydrogen control system. The Staff again found that the more rapid purging would not result in a significant environmental impact and, accordingly, the Staff did not propose to prepare a separate environmental impact statement on this action.

Public comment was invited through May 16, 1980, on the assessment and the two addenda in notices published in the Federal Register. See 45 Fed. Reg. 20265, 21760, and 30760 (1980). At the close of the comment period, approximately 800 responses had been received from various federal, state and local agencies and officials, nongovernmental organizations and other individuals. The Staff has issued a final report entitled "Final Environmental Assessment for Decontamination of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Reactor Building Atmosphere" (NUREG-0662, Vol. 1, May 1980), which discusses the Staff's assessment of alternative decontamination

methods and of various public comments submitted on the draft assessment. Upon review of these various comments and further Staff analyses of alternatives, the Staff again recommended that controlled purging of the reactor building atmosphere be authorized. The Staff reaffirmed its earlier assessment that this action would not have any significant adverse impact on public health and safety and that neither containment purging nor the other alternatives discussed in the assessment would result in any significant environmental impact. The Staff does not intend, therefore, to prepare an environmental impact statement on the purging operation.

The Staff's conclusion and recommendation were discussed at Commission meetings on June 5 and 10, 1980. At the June 10th meeting, the Commission approved the purging operation and determined that preparation of an environmental impact statement was not necessary. An appropriate authorization to purge the reactor building atmosphere and negative declaration have been issued by action separate from this decision under 10 CFR 2.206. Copies are attached to this decision.

In view of the determination not to prepare an environmental impact statement on the purging operation, ANGRY's petition is denied. ANGRY also requested that the Commission give 12 hours notice of its intent to authorize release of radioactive materials in the event that it authorized purging of the containment atmosphere. Since purging may not take place until 10 days after the authorization to purge is issued, this aspect of ANGRY's petition is granted.

A copy of this decision will be filed with the Secretary for the Commission's review in accordance with 10 CFR 2.206(c). As provided in 10 CFR 2.206(c), this

decision will become the final action of the Commission twenty (20) days after issuance, unless the Commission elects to review this decision on its own motion within that time.

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 13th day of June, 1980.

Attachment:
As Stated

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

(Docket No. 50-320)

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

(Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2)

ISSUANCE OF DIRECTOR'S DECISION UNDER 10 CFR 2.206

On September 14, 1979, a notice was published in the Federal Register that a petition by the Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York (ANGRY) was being considered under 10 CFR 2.206. ANGRY's petition requested that the Commission prepare an environmental impact statement concerning the venting of radioactive gases from the reactor building of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2. Because this action will not cause any significant environmental impact, it has been determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement. Accordingly, ANGRY's petition is denied.

A copy of the formal decision denying the petition is available for inspection in the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20555 and in the local public document rooms at the State Library of Pennsylvania (Government Publications Section), Education Building, Commonwealth and Walnut Streets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126 and the York College of Pennsylvania, Country Club Road, York, Pennsylvania 17405. A copy will also be filed with the Secretary for the Commission's review in accordance with 10 CFR 2.206(c). As provided in 10 CFR 2.20[illegible](c) this decision will become the final action of the Commission twenty days after issuance unless the Commission elects to review the decision on its own motion within that time.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Edson G. Case, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 13th day of June, 1980.