

April 1, 1980

Dear Sir:

I strongly favor the re-start, as soon as possible, of the Three Mile Island Unit 1 and expeditious cleanup of TMI-2.

I and my wife are residents of Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, Pa., where the plant is located, and we're customers of the Metropolitan Edison Co., which runs the plant.

We have watched in recent weeks the irresponsible demonstrations and antics of our anti-nuclear "neighbors" in the Middletown area and have found them to be disgraceful in conduct and wanting as far as the facts are concerned.

We have listened to the debate on the proposed venting of krypton 85 gas from the Unit 2 Containment Building, and have asked ourselves what all the fuss is about with regard to the low exposures to the people living offsite, as stated last week in Harrisburg by Mr. Harold Denton of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

While the accident at TMI may have been a tragedy, as the company's head man, Bob Arnold, suggested recently on television, the biggest tragedy may lay ahead for the customers of Met-Ed who are forced to pay higher rates because of the exorbitant costs of OPEC oil being used to make replacement electricity, and to the stockholders of General Public Utilities, which owns Met-Ed, many of whom are elderly and on fixed incomes. The stockholders receive no benefit from lower rates customers pay because of nuclear power, and are now being forced to absorb most of the losses through lack of dividends they are depending on.

Many people talk about the risks of operating nuclear power plants, but there is risk in everything we do in life. What is better, a small amount of radiation due to the safe operation of nuclear power, or the air pollution that would inevitably result from burning coal, which, by the way, emits radiation all its own?

What we need in this country is a "mix" of energy sources, such as nuclear, coal, and eventually solar and biomass, to make our electricity. What we don't need is ill-advised rhetoric from the no-growth anti-nukes, who would impose their lifestyle on me by stepping back into the past.

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