



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



*John Frazier*

*Rec'd Oct 23, 1979*

OCT 16 1979

Anthony Robbins, M.D.  
Director, NIOSH  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Dr. Robbins:

Thank you for your letter dated October 4, 1979 with the enclosed August 1, 1979 report by the NIOSH/TMI Task Force. We have been waiting for this important material since our July 19, 1979 meeting with NIOSH representatives so that we could more fully respond to former Secretary Califano's request for the establishment of adequate worker records.

With respect to recovery plans, we are sending pertinent information to Mr. Frazier as it becomes available. In addition, we are making arrangements to notify him of meetings that deal with worker dose records.

Contrary to news articles you have seen, decontamination of water in the TMI Unit 2 auxiliary building has not begun. However, the Commission, on October 16, 1979, issued an order authorizing the use of Epicor-II. Unless stopped by legal action initiated by local concerned groups, it is probable that the system will be in operation in the immediate future. A copy of the Environmental Assessment on the Use of Epicor-II has been sent to NIOSH.

Dr. Michael A. Parsont of my staff contacted Dr. William Mills, EPA, Chairman of the Scientific Review Group, to ask about Mr. Frazier's participation as a member of the group. Dr. Mills indicated that Mr. Frazier would be welcome to attend and participate as an observer. In this regard, he will act in the same capacity as Dr. Gil Beebe, NIH. Dr. Beebe has taken full part in the Scientific Review Group's activities for some time.

We will be in touch with Mr. Frazier regarding the problem areas identified in his August 1 report. I hope that the passage of time since the July 19 meeting has not caused information important to your study, that otherwise could have been obtained, to have been lost.

I am puzzled by the handwritten footnote to your October 4 letter, expressing concern about the TMI workers and your desire that NIOSH be informed about what is happening. Your implication that the NRC is not worrying about the workers is simply incorrect. As you can see from the enclosed correspondence, the NRC has been closely examining the radiation protection program of the TMI licensee and has been aggressively pressing for needed

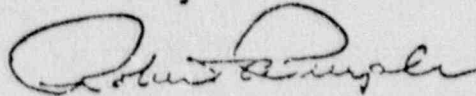
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Improvements. In addition, because of the special features of the decontamination and recovery operations at TMI, the NRC has established a Special Panel on TMI Radiation Protection Program. The panel is composed primarily of outside consultants in health physics and radiation protection, and is to submit an evaluation report to the NRC on the adequacy of the radiation protection program at TMI by December 7, 1979. As further evidence of our commitment to worker protection, please note in the enclosed October 1, 1979, letter from Acting Chairman Kennedy to Senator Hart the firm commitment to providing adequate protection for workers at the site. All of this correspondence, incidentally, has been previously furnished to Mr. Frazier in our continuing effort to keep your organization informed. To the best of my knowledge, we have been furnishing promptly to Mr. Frazier all information pertinent to the establishment of an adequate worker registry. We plan to continue doing so. If there is other information you need in designing your health study, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Purple, Assistant Director  
Radiological Health & Safeguards Standards  
Office of Standards Development

Enclosures:  
As stated

cc: Secretary Patricia Harris, HEW  
Todd Frazier, NIOSH  
William Mills, EPA