



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

*H. Snyder*  
*Rep: Dirck*  
*Cornel*  
*Raman*  
*Denton*  
*Shaw*  
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JUL 31 1980

①	Mr. Ahearne	✓
②	Mr. Guter	
	Mr. Harding	
	Mr. Puchner	
	Mr. Stiddings	

The Honorable John F. Ahearne  
Chairman, United States Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of April 17 transmitting the concerns of the Special Inquiry Group of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on the Three Mile Island (TMI) accident. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Department has reviewed the suggestions of the NRC's Special Inquiry Group regarding the need for public information and education and the provision of human services for comprehensive care of emotional problems.

A public information program is already in place for the residents of TMI through the Governor's Advisory Panel in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Department is represented on that panel. I have also asked Dr. Calvin Frederick, Chief, Disaster Assistance and Emergency Mental Health, National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH), to contact Mr. Bernard Snyder to explore specific areas in which the Department might be of assistance in planning public information or human services programs.

A special program to relieve the mental health problems of the citizens in the community would be justified only in the event that existing community mental health centers and other resources are insufficient to meet such needs. Such a program would be supplemental and analogous to the crisis counseling provided through Section 413 of P.L. 93-288, the Disaster Relief Act, in the event of major Presidentially-declared disasters.

You should be aware that two Federally funded community mental health centers (CMHC) in the TMI area and one nonfederally funded CMHC currently provide information, diagnostic counseling and referral services. Each community health center has an emergency mental health component, which is designed to provide assistance in emergency situations. This could include services in hospital emergency rooms or through outreach programs in the case of citizen relocation.

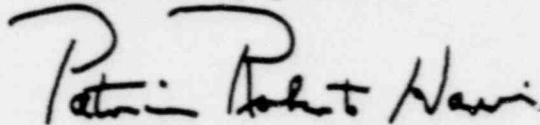
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The National Institutes of Mental Health is supporting an investigation of stress in individuals at TMI. This study, conducted by the University of Pittsburgh, focuses on workers in the plant, mothers of young children and mental health clinics in the TMI area. The initial data collected during the winter of 1979 and the follow-up data gathered at the time of the anniversary date of the accident are in the process of being analyzed. The final report should be available at the end of the summer. The Department anticipates using this information for more effective planning to address mental health and behavioral issues related to incident-specific disaster situations.

I anticipate that our staff will continue working closely with those of the NRC in this important area.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Roberts Harris". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Patricia Roberts Harris