



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

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AUGUST 15 1980

The Holowka Family
RD #4
York, Pennsylvania 17404

Dear Holowka Family:

I am writing in response to your letter of March 24, 1980, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission attributing a relationship between the operation of the Three Mile Island nuclear station and specific ill health effects suffered by you, your farm animals, and your pets.

With regard to physical ill health resulting from the accident, a team of investigators from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare calculated the doses to the people living within 50 miles of the Three Mile Island site and estimated the number of new cancers that would result from the exposure to the radioactivity that leaked out of the plant. The team reported their work in a report entitled, "Population Dose and Health Impact of the Accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station" (NUREG-0558). They concluded that the offsite collective dose associated with radioactive material released from March 28, 1979, to April 7, 1979, represents minimal risks (that is, a very small number of additional health effects to the offsite population). Enclosed for your information is the summary of NUREG-0558. Moreover, both President Carter's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island and NRC's Special Inquiry Group on the accident independently arrived at the same conclusion.

NRC's Terrestrial Resources Section of the Environmental Engineering Branch is in the process of completing a study of possible ill health effects to farm animals in the vicinity of TMI that have been attributed to the accident or to normal plant operations. Should you wish to discuss the health problems observed in your animals, please make a collect telephone call to either Mr. Gerry Gears (301) 492-8280 or Dr. Gerry LaRoche (301) 492-8289, both of NRC's Terrestrial Resources Section.

We can provide you with the following information about your damage claims. The Federal District Court for the middle District of Pennsylvania has allowed the two insurance pools handling Three Mile Island accident claims to pay for evacuation costs and lost wages incurred by pregnant women, preschool-age children, and their families living within a 5-mile radius of the Three Mile Island plant. Those persons believing that they have incurred a legitimate expense as a result

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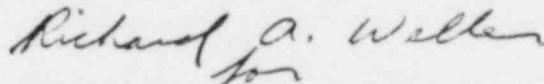
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of the accident should submit their claims to the insurance pools. Payment of the claims will then depend on the decision made by the court. The claims should be submitted to the following address:

American Nuclear Insurers
ATTN: Mr. William Carrier
The Exchange, Suite 245
270 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, Connecticut 06032

I appreciate your concerns and assure you that every effort is being made to ensure the continued protection of the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely,



Bernard J. Snyder, Program Director
Three Mile Island Program Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Summary of NUREG-0558