



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

AUG 11 1980

Mr. Donald Ortlieb
19 East Faville Avenue
Dolgeville, New York 13329

Dear Mr. Ortlieb:

Your letter to Mr. Vollmer about the length of time required to begin cleanup operations at the Three Mile Island nuclear station was referred to me for response. I regret that this answer has been delayed for so long. The accident and its consequences have created a substantial increase in the agency's workload, which has prevented me from responding to you as promptly as I would have liked.

Metropolitan Edison Company submitted to NRC a "Safety Analysis and Environmental Report" (November 13, 1979) in which it evaluated alternative methods for the disposal of the krypton gases, such as purging and cryogenic processing, and selective absorption. NRC also evaluated alternative methods for disposal of the krypton gas to determine what effect decontamination would have on workers, on the public health and safety, and on the environment. Based on its evaluation, NRC issued an environmental assessment (NUREG-0662 and two addenda) for public comment on March 26, 1980, and received approximately 800 comments. These comments were considered in the staff's preparation of the "Final Environmental Assessment for Decontamination of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Reactor Building Atmosphere" (NUREG-0662), vols. 1 and 2.

On June 12, 1980, the Commission issued an Order for Temporary Modification of License, authorizing controlled purging of the krypton-85 from the reactor building atmosphere. In a separate Memorandum and Order, also issued on June 12, 1980, the Commission discussed rationale for its decision. Actual venting operations began on June 28, 1980, and were completed on July 11, 1980.

I am pleased to provide you with this information.

Sincerely,

W J Travers for

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

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 AUTH. NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 UNTLIEB, D. Affiliation Unknown
 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 VOLLMER, R. Assistant Director for Systems & Projects

SUBJECT: Requests info re five month waiting period prior to TMI cleanup.

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