



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

PAR

SEP 10 1980

Docket No. 50-289

Mr. Edward H. Treat, Borough Manager
Borough of Myerstown
515 South College Street
Myerstown, Pennsylvania 17067

Dear Mr. Treat:

I am writing in response to your letter to Commissioner Hendrie dated August 5, 1980 concerning the delay in placing Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1 (TMI-1) back into service and the impact of this delay on the citizenry of the Borough of Myerstown.

As you are aware, the Commission Order of July 2, 1979 directed that TMI-1 remain shutdown until further order of the NRC, and determined that a hearing before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) precede restart of the facility in order to allow public participation in the proceeding. In a memorandum and Order issued by the assigned ASLB dated August 15, 1980, the hearing is set to begin on October 15, 1980.

The NRC staff is currently involved in the on-going review of technical information and hearing preparation concerning the restart of Unit No. 1. The record on which the Commission will make a determination regarding restart will include a recommendation from the ASLB. Based upon the current status of the proceedings, the development of a record on which the Commission can make a decision regarding restart is not expected before early 1981. While the NRC is, of course, concerned about financial impacts on consumers and licensees, the NRC's primary responsibility is the assurance of public health and safety.

Your comments and interest in these matters are appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation

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