



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

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50-289  
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AUGUST 15 1980

Mr. G. Scott Goodman  
RD #1, Box 587  
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania 17022

Dear Mr. Goodman:

Your letter to President Carter about the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear station was referred to me for response.

With regard to your comments concerning the possible future operation of Three Mile Island, the Commission has ordered that a public hearing be conducted to determine whether TMI-1 should be operated and, if so, under what conditions the restart would take place. Prior to start of the hearings, the NRC staff will conduct a review of technical information concerning the restart of Unit 1. As part of this review, the NRC staff will conduct meetings with the licensee in the presence of the public, and the public will be given the opportunity to raise questions and to make statements. During the hearing, the technical issues that are appropriate to assure the public health and safety will also be addressed. In addition, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has indicated that NRC should consider the psychological impact of future operation on the nearby communities. A copy of the Commission Order that outlines the issues to be considered is enclosed for your information.

As for Unit 2, the licensee has not yet submitted to the NRC a proposal for overall plant recovery, although the licensee is conducting feasibility studies. It is not possible at this time to determine when such proposals for recovery may be submitted or how much time will be needed for the required reviews and approvals in connection with Unit 2's recovery. I would note, however, that the licensee's authority to operate Unit 2, except for those actions necessary to keep the reactor shut down, was suspended by Order of July 20, 1979.

With regard to your desire for the Federal Government to assume full responsibility for cleanup procedures at TMI, the NRC was created by Congress to regulate the commercial use of nuclear energy. Thus, while it is outside the authority of the Commission to physically manage decontamination operations at TMI-2, we intend to fully implement the regulatory process in determining the acceptability of those operations as conducted by the licensee. Presently, 15 Commission professional representatives are at the TMI site. Their task is to review all proposed cleanup plans, including the review and approval of detailed operating procedures, and to maintain surveillance of those operations that NRC has authorized. No future actions can be taken at the site without the NRC's review and approval.

You comment that NRC should phase out nuclear power plants. NRC's primary responsibility consists in the licensing, inspection, and enforcement of regulations for nuclear power plants in the interest of public health and safety and for the

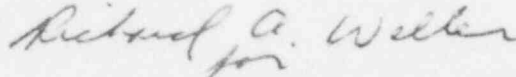
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protection of the environment. Changes in NRC's regulatory responsibilities can stem from the public's will and the resulting Congressional action.

Regarding your concern about potential health effects, 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). Also enclosed for your information is the summary of NUREG-0558.

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, not only at Three Mile Island, but also at all nuclear power plants.

Sincerely,



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

- Enclosures: 1. Order and Notice of Hearing  
of August 9, 1979  
2. Summary of NUREG-0558

1)  
PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

5-5-80

NRC

DEAR PRESIDENT CARTER,

WE ARE A FAMILY LIVING APPROXIMATELY  
7 MILES FROM THE CRIPPLED THREE MILE ISLAND  
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. WE CONSIDER THAT ACCIDENT  
TO BE A NATIONAL DISASTER. THEREFORE, WE  
RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS  
BE TAKEN:—

(1.) THAT MET-ED'S LICENSE TO OPERATE  
A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT BE REVOKED.

(2.) IN ORDER TO INSURE A SAFE AND PROPER  
CLEAN UP OF UNIT #2, WE FEEL THAT THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR THESE PROCEDURES. NOT MET-ED.

(3.) AFTER THE SAFE COMPLETION OF THE CLEANUP  
OF UNIT #2, CONVERT UNIT #1 AND #2 TO NATURAL  
GAS OR COAL FOR FUEL. IF NOT, SHUT "THE  
ISLAND" DOWN FOREVER. WE DO NOT NEED  
NUCLEAR POWER TO BOIL WATER!

AS TAX-PAYING CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
WHO VOTED FOR YOU IN THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION,  
WE FEEL THAT YOU MUST RESPOND TO THIS MOST PRESSING  
ISSUE.

WE HAVE BEEN LIED TO BY MET-ED, THE  
N.R.C., G.P.U. AND EVEN THE D.E.P. LONG ENOUGH.  
WE WILL NO LONGER BE FOOLED BY MR. HAROLD DENTON'S  
"SMOOTH TALK" AND REQUEST THAT HE GO HOME AND  
LEAVE OUR LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AND POLITICIANS  
ALONE.

THE CLEAN UP IS NOT A MATTER OF MONEY OR POLITICS. IT IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HUMAN LIVES NOT CORPORATE INTERESTS.

WE DO NOT WANT TO BE USED AS HUMAN GUINEA PIGS BY MET-ED WITH THEIR EXPERIMENTALLY DISPOSED RADIOACTIVE WASTES.

MR. PRESIDENT I AM NOT A LETTER WRITER AS YOU CAN PROBABLY TELL, BUT NOW I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

WE HAVE AN 11 YEAR OLD SON AND MY WIFE IS 3 MONTHS PREGNANT. WE PRAY TO GOD THAT 20 OR 30 YEARS FROM NOW OUR SON WON'T CONTRACT CANCER OR LUKEMIA DUE TO THE BLUNDERINGS AT T.M.I. WE ALSO PRAY TO GOD THAT OUR YET TO BE BORN CHILD WILL BE BROUGHT INTO THIS WORLD WITHOUT ANY ABNORMALITIES. IT IS EVEN MORE FRIGHTENING TO THINK THAT THESE ABNORMALITIES MAY NOT SHOW UP FOR 3 OR 4 GENERATIONS.

DON'T THESE PEOPLE HAVE A CONSCIENCE?

MR. PRESIDENT I HOPE THAT YOU CAN AT LEAST UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BIT OF WHAT IS GOING ON TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS AREA OF SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AND SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOU CONSIDER AND ACT IMMEDIATELY TO OUR URGENT REQUESTS.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,  
G. SCOTT AND DEBRA J. GOODMAN