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~~Docket 50-289~~ 320

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OCT 16 1980

Mr. Richard Earl Schlosberg
1602 East Second Street
Brooklyn, New York 11230

Dear Mr. Schlosberg:

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

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, copies of which are enclosed for your information.

From this process have emerged the following NRC staff conclusions:

- The potential physical health impact on the public of using any of the proposed strategies for removing the krypton-85 is negligible.
- The potential psychological impact is likely to grow the longer it takes to reach a decision, get started, and complete the process.
- The purging method is the quickest and the safest for the workers on Three Mile Island to accomplish.
- Overall, no significant environmental impact would result from use of any of the alternatives discussed in the assessment.

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 purging operations began on June 28, 1980, and were completed on July 11, 1980. The

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Mr. Richard Earl Schlosberg

- 2 -

OCT 16 1980

doses resulting from the purge were well within those predicted in Section 7.1 of Volume 1 of NRC's final environmental assessment. Copies of both Commission issuances are also enclosed.

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 is conducting a review of technical information concerning the restart of Unit 1. As part of this review, the NRC staff has been conducting meetings with the licensee in the presence of the public, and the public was 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 also enclosed for your information. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m., October 15, 1980, at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Hearing Room, 25 North Court Street (Ground Floor), Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

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.

NRC has prepared a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for public comment on the decontamination and disposal of radioactive wastes resulting from the TMI-2 accident. The PEIS, a copy of which is enclosed for your information, focuses on the environmental issues and alternative methods associated with the performance of these cleanup activities.

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:
See next page

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DATE	▶ 10/2/80	▶ 10/3/80	▶ 10/3/80			

Mr. Richard Earl Schlosberg

- 3 -

Enclosures:

1. NUREG-0662, Vols. 1 & 2
2. Order for Temporary Modification
of License of June 12, 1980
3. Memorandum and Order
of June 12, 1980
4. Order and Notice of Hearing
of August 9, 1979
5. PEIS

OCT 16 1980

OFFICE ▶

SURNAME ▶

DATE ▶

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NR
MAILGRAM

4-0101645181 06/29/80 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WSHB
2123754364 MGM TDMT BROOKLYN NY 117 06-29 0305P EST

PRESIDENT JAMES EARL CARTER
WASHINGTON DC 20500

RADIATION RELEASED FROM THREE MILE ISLAND REACTOR WILL BE IN FARMLAND
SOIL, NEAR HOMES, IN DRINKING WATER FOREVER,

AMERICANS WILL ENCOUNTER, DRINK, EAT, AND PICK UP RADIATION RELEASED
FROM THREE MILE ISLAND CONSTANTLY, FOREVER, WE WILL LOSE OUR
CHILDREN, OUR FERTILITY OUR LIVES, OUR ANIMALS, OUR LAND, OUR WATER,
TO AMERICANS YOUR ACTIONS WILL LIVE IN INFAMY, YOUR PART IN
LEGALIZING THE SPREAD OF THIS GENOCIDAL AND TERRACIDAL POLLUTION ON
AMERICA AND OUR PEOPLE IS IMMORAL, SINFUL, AND WILL BE CRIMINAL,
BUREAUCRATIC DEPTH TECHNOLOGICAL AND PUBLIC SUPPORT, AND ECONOMIC
JUSTIFICATION WILL BE NO SANCTUARY TO YOUR ATTACK AGAINST OUR LAND,
HOW DO YOU SUGGEST WE AVOID THE INESCAPABLE POLLUTION? PLEASE DO WHAT
IS RIGHT, MAY GOD ENLIGHTEN YOU.

RICHARD EARL SCHLOSBERG
1602 EAST 2 ST
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15:04 EST

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