



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

NRC PDR

SEP 22 1980

Docket No. 50-289

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey T. Linzey, Jr.
6037 Fruithurst
Norcross, Georgia 30092

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Linzey:

I am writing in response to your August 21, 1980 letter to Chairman Ahearne concerning the restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1 (TMI-1), and action to bring financial relief to the General Public Utilities Corporation.

As you are aware, at the time of the March 28, 1979 accident at Unit 2, TMI-1 was shutdown for refueling. During the period immediately after the accident, the licensee was instructed by the NRC staff not to resume operation of Unit 1 pending Commission approval. On July 2, 1979, the Commission ordered that TMI-1 must remain in a shutdown condition until further order of the Commission, and that a hearing must precede restart. In an Order on August 9, 1979 as supplemented on March 6, 1980, the Commission specified the issues to be considered in the hearing and the procedures to be applied.

The hearing, conducted by the assigned Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to determine whether the short-term and long-term actions specified in the orders are necessary and sufficient to ensure safe operation of Unit 1, will commence on October 15, 1980. A recommendation from the assigned Board will be included in the record upon which the Commission will make a decision regarding restart of TMI-1. 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. State public utility commissions and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission have primary responsibility for the rate structures. Therefore, you may wish to address your concerns to these agencies.

Your comments and interest in this matter are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation

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