

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

POOR ORIGINAL

October 21, 1980

Mrs. Dolores L. Aulthouse
RD 2, Box 316
Columbia, PA 18512

Dear Mrs. Aulthouse:

Your October 13 letters addressed to Chairman Ahearne and Commissioners Gilinsky, Mendrie and Bradford have been referred to this office for reply.

I am not sure whether to take your letters as comments on the "Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Related to Decontamination and Disposal of Radioactive Wastes Resulting from March 28, 1979, Accident, Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2." Nevertheless, I am taking the liberty of forwarding copies to our Three Mile Island Program Office so they can be treated as such.

I would like to address the specific matters raised in the last paragraph of your letter. The NRC has the responsibility of regulating nuclear power if it is used, not for making general decisions about whether it should be used—in Pennsylvania or elsewhere. That is a matter for Congress to decide. Generally, a utility's decision on what kind of electric generating capacity to install is an economic one, and I suspect that was the case in Pennsylvania.

In regard to the conversion of existing nuclear units to coal, I do not know if it is technically or economically feasible, but the NRC could not require it, even if it were. The same is true in regard to the question of using Pennsylvania coal in Pennsylvania or elsewhere. It simply is a matter over which this agency has no authority.

I know you won't find this response very comforting, but I wanted you to know we aren't ignoring your concerns because we don't care about them.

Sincerely,

Frank Ingram
Assistant to the Director
Office of Public Affairs

cc: TMI Program Office
w/incoming ltrs.

OFFICE	OPA				
SURNAME	FLG:pmg				
DATE	10/21/80				