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Docket No. 50-239

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Mr. Ralph B. Rhode
1543 Beta Avenue
Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042

Dear Mr. Rhode:

I am writing in response to your September 26, 1980 letter to President Carter concerning the delay in placing Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1, back into service and the financial impacts on the utility and consumers resulting from the accident and the subsequent cleanup activities at Unit No. 2.

Following the accident at Unit No. 2, the NRC ordered that Unit No. 1 must remain in a shutdown condition until further order of the Commission, and that a hearing must precede restart. The public hearing, conducted by the assigned Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, commenced on October 15, 1980 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. During the hearing, the technical issues appropriate to assure public health and safety are being addressed. The Board's recommendation will be included in the record upon which the Commission will make a decision regarding restart of Unit No. 1.

I have enclosed copies of the August 9, 1979 and March 6, 1980 Commission Orders which may help differentiate Three Mile Island from other Babcock and Wilcox facilities.

With regard to your comments concerning the financial impacts on the consumer and licensee, the NRC is, of course, concerned about the financial impacts, but the NRC's primary responsibility is the assurance of public health and safety.

The Commission is continuing to independently evaluate information in the financial area as part of the Three Mile Island, Unit No. 1 restart review and will continue to cooperate with the other State and Federal agencies and Commissions, including Congress, who are involved in the financial issues.

Your comments on these matters are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Robert W. Reid

Robert W. Reid, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Licensing

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1543 Beta Avenue
Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042
September 26, 1980

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

My name is Ralph B. Rhode and am employed as an Industrial Representative of Metropolitan Edison Company. I am also a Metropolitan Edison Company ratepayer with a great deal of concern over the financial impact which the Three Mile Island accident has had and will continue to have on both the company and the 360,000 customers which Met-Ed serves.

First of all I would like to point out that Met-Ed and many other utilities became involved in nuclear power due to pressure from and promises made by the federal government. Therefore, I feel it is unfair for Met-Ed and its ratepayers to bear the total burden of this disaster when a large part of the responsibility for nuclear generation falls squarely on the federal government.

Secondly, I would like an answer as to why the undamaged unit at T.M.I., (Unit #1), has been prevented from returning to service for the past 18 months. It is my understanding that other Babcock and Wilcox designed reactors were taken out of service shortly after the accident at T.M.I., made several modifications required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and then were returned to service with the promise that additional required modifications would be made within a specified period of time. This privilege however, was not given to Met-Ed, and the cost of electricity, due to the purchased replacement power costs, has soared. An immediate return to service of Unit #1 would result in an overall savings to Met-Ed customers of approximately .7 of a cent per KWH or approximately 63 million dollars annually.


Your help is absolutely essential to institute financial help for the cleanup of T.M.I. Unit #2 and to get T.M.I. Unit #1 back into service. The delays are no longer justified nor understandable, and the costs have become intolerable.

President Jimmy Carter (continued)

September 26, 1980

Thank you for your valuable time. I hope you will reply to my letter and share your thoughts and views concerning this most important matter.

Sincerely yours,



RALPH B. RHODE

cc: Mr. John F. Ahearne, Chairman
Congressman Allen Ertel
Honorable George W. Gekas
Senator H. John Heinz, III
Honorable Clarence F. Manbeck
Representative Joseph C. Manmiller
Representative Nicholas B. Moehlmann
Senator Richard S. Schweiker
Representative H. Jack Seltzer
Ms. Susan M. Shanaman, Chairman
Governor Richard Thornburgh
Congressman Robert S. Walker