Docket No. 50-320
NRC PDR w/incoming
Local PDR w/incoming
IERA w/incoming
TMIPO r/f w/incoming
TMI Site r/f
BJSnyder
JTCollins
RWeller
OLynch
MDuncan w/incoming
HThompson w/incoming

OCT 2 8 1980

ocket No. 50-320

Mr. Mike O'Connell
P.O. Box 831
Pismo Beach, California 93449

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

I am writing in response to your letter to Mr. DeYoung requesting technical answers to questions about Three Mile Island. I regret that this answer to your letter has been delayed. The accident and its consequences have created a substantial increase in the agency's workload, which has prevented me from responding to you as promptly as I would have liked.

Enclosed is a list of your questions along with their appropriate answers.

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 the Three Mile Island Station, but also at all nuclear power plants.

Sincerely,

BJ

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

Enclosure:
Question List

OFFICE ▶	TMIPO	TMIPO	OTS/TMIPO			
SURNAME ▶	MDuncan/hmt	DBrinkman	BJSnyder			
DATE ▶	10/27/80	10/28/80	10/28/80			

NRC FORM 318 (9-76) NRCM 0240 ☆U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1979-289-369

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1. What is the core temperature (if this is possible to determine)?

   Answer: The average incore thermocouple temperature is approximately 135 ^{O}F.

2. What is the primary coolant temperature as it leaves the reactor vessel?

   Answer: Approximately 130 ^{O}F.

3. Given that the core was mishapened last March 28 (most notably the center of the core) due to the intense heat - are all the control rods fully inserted?

   Answer: Yes, all the control rods were fully inserted when the reactor automatically shutdown on March 28, 1979.

4. Is it possible that the core is still fissioning to some extent (due once again to the deformation of the core incurred last March 28)?

   Answer: No. The boron in the reactor coolant is maintaining the reactor subcritical.

5. How much boron is being added to the primary coolant (PPT or PPM)? And if this boron were not being added, is there a possibility that some fissioning would take place (assuming no fissioning is now present)?

   Answer: The boron concentration in the primary coolant is being maintained at approximately 3800 ppm.

6. Is there contaminated water on the containment floor? If so, how deep and what volume is it?

   Answer: Yes. There are approximately 600,000 gallons at a depth of approximately 7.5 feet.

7. How much water (at what rate) is leaking from the primary cooling system?

   Answer: The current leakage rate is less than 0.1 gallons per minute.

8. Has the rate of leaking primary coolant increased or decreased over the past ten months?

   Answer: The leak rate has decreased as the system pressure decreased.

9. What is the level of activity inside the containment at Three Mile Island?

   Answer: Enclosed is a copy of the "Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement related to decontamination and disposal of radioactive wastes resulting from March 28, 1979, accident at Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2." The PEIS discusses the current status of the plant as well as the environmental issues and alternative methods associated with the performance of these cleanup activities.

10. What is the earliest date projected for:

   a. Entering the containment

      Answer: The initial entry into containment was made July 23, 1980.

   b. Cold shutdown without primary cooling

      Answer: Core cooling will be required until the fuel is removed from the core.

Also enclosed is a copy of "Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Cleanup Activities at Three Mile Island, Unit 2."