



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JULY 10 1980

50-289

Ms. Florence G. Shank  
205 Adam Drive  
Lebanon, Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Shank:

I am writing in response to your recent letter to President Carter which was forwarded to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In your correspondence, you expressed concerns regarding the delay in placing Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1, back into service, and the rate structure prescribed for the Metropolitan Edison Company.

As you may be aware, the NRC has ordered that a public hearing be conducted to determine whether the facility should be operated and, if so, under what conditions. The public hearing is scheduled to begin this fall. During the hearing, the technical issues appropriate to assure public health and safety will be addressed. The NRC staff is currently involved in the on-going review of technical information concerning the restart of Unit 1. Based upon the current status of the proceedings, the development of a record on which the NRC can make a decision regarding restart is not expected before the early part of 1981.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) issued on May 23, 1980, a sequel to the PUC's June 19, 1979 Order regarding the allocation of the financial burden resulting from the March 28, 1979 accident at Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 2. The following excerpt from the May 23, 1979 Order may be of interest.

"The basic conclusion of the Commission in this order is that Met Ed should continue to operate as a public utility. The Commission will provide Met Ed the means of financial rehabilitation. However, we will write no blank checks on its ratepayers. We find that TMI-1 is no longer used and useful and that the base rates of both Met Ed and Penelec should be reduced. This order, with its provisions for a fully current recovery of energy costs and an accelerated amortization of deferred energy costs provides an adequate framework for Met Ed's recovery. Respondent must convince its bank creditors that it has the will and the ability to rehabilitate itself.

Above all, Met Ed must demonstrate candor and a willingness to address its problems and the initiative and ability to find solutions to those problems. The very real fears and concerns of its customers and neighbors must be allayed. Met Ed's cost must be reduced through load management and conservation-inducing rate structure change. Met Ed must aggressively pursue the return to service of TMI-1 or an early decision on its conversion to the use of an alternative fuel. If these things are done, the Commission is confident that Met Ed will not only survive but will regain its financial health.

8008280 358

H

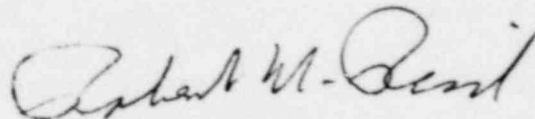
Finally, we emphasize that this order does not end our regulatory concern. The management investigation of the GPU Companies at Docket No. I-79080320 continues. Further, we will continue to closely monitor the operations of Met Ed, Penelec and the GPU Companies to assure the continued provision of safe, adequate and reliable service to Pennsylvania ratepayers at reasonable rates."

While we are, of course, concerned about financial impacts on consumers, 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 regarding the financial aspects of electric power generation.

The former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) had a Congressional mandate to develop and promote nuclear energy. When the AEC was abolished in 1974, the NRC was created by Congress for the sole purpose of regulating the commercial production of nuclear energy. The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) is now responsible for the Federal Government's nuclear research and development activities. Consequently, comments and questions about the future of this energy source should be directed to that agency.

Your comments and interest in these matters are appreciated.

Sincerely,



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

7/3  
NRC

205 Adam Drive  
Lebanon, Pennsylvania  
February 13, 1980

*Uprimu*

The President of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It is very disheartening indeed to learn that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has mandated that Unit 1 of Three Mile Island will not return to service before next fall. Approximately ten years were spent in bringing this unit into operation and it produced several years of good service. It differs from Unit 2 in that the turbine is a General Electric Unit while Unit 2 has a Westinghouse turbine. Also the architect and designer varies with both plants: Gilbert Associates, Inc. was responsible for the design of Unit 1 and Burns & Roe, Inc. for Unit 2.

It took many years, which seemed almost endless to get Unit 1 on line and now due to the NRC's unreasonable procedure it is standing there useless while hundreds of employees jobs are in jeopardy. It appears that we are bogged down with regulations.

We are asking that you do all in your power to expedite returning Three Mile Island Unit 1 to a safe operation as quickly as possible and also expedite the rate relief requested by GPU's subsidiaries.

Sincerely,

*Florence G. Shank*

FLORENCE G. SHANK

*Ferm letter-2*