



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

Jera
JULY 15 1980

Docket No. 50-289

Ralph E. and Robin Neidig
479 Lime Street
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Neidig:

I am writing in response to your letter which advocated placing Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1, back into service.

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 ongoing 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 Commission can make a decision regarding restart is not expected before the early part of 1981.

With regard to Three Mile Island, Unit No. 2, the licensee has not yet submitted to the NRC a proposal for overall plant recovery, although the licensee is conducting feasibility studies. It is not possible at this time to determine when such proposals for recovery may be submitted or how much time will be needed for the required reviews and approvals in connection with Unit 2's recovery. I would note, however, that the licensee's authority to operate Unit 2, except for those actions necessary to keep the reactor shutdown, was suspended by Order of July 20, 1979.

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.

Your comments and interest in this matter are appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert W. Reid".

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