



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

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NOV 5 1980

50-320

Mr. John G. Hope, Clerk
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
1100 N. Sixth Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Mr. George R. Beyer, Recording Clerk
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
1100 N. Sixth Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Dear Msrs. Hope and Beyer:

The NRC is in the process of obtaining input from the public, both in writing and orally, on the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS, NUREG-0683) on the cleanup of Three Mile Island (TMI) Unit 2. As one means of assuring this public input the NRC staff has initiated a series of meetings with the public and local officials in Pennsylvania and Maryland. A listing of thirty-one completed or currently planned meetings is enclosed for your information.

The format of these meetings has been a short summary presentation by the NRC staff responsible for preparation of the PEIS followed by two to three hours of questions and statements by the audience, with NRC staff responding to questions. This approach has been very useful for obtaining views and concerns by allowing effective dialogue between the audience and the responsible NRC staff. Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency and the respective states are also available at these meetings to respond to questions from the audience.

Starting with the public meeting in Annapolis, verbatim transcripts have been made of each meeting in its entirety. The audience is informed in advance that transcript copies will be available to individuals upon request, or in NRC's local public document rooms and the Middletown, PA field office. The purpose of making verbatim transcripts is to ensure that a record of all questions and statements is available to be considered (along with written comments) in finalizing the PEIS. The staff will respond to substantive comments in the final PEIS, whether provided orally at these meetings or transmitted in writing during the comment period which was extended to 90 days, ending on November 20, 1980.

In addition, the NRC Three Mile Island Program Office staff has prepared the enclosed report, "Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Cleanup Activities at Three Mile Island, Unit 2", NUREG-0732, which is made available at all of these meetings. This report has been prepared to provide a clear, readily understandable explanation for the lay public of alternative methods for carrying out cleanup activities and their possible environmental impacts. Over 1600 copies of this report have been distributed outside NRC to date.

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Mr. John G. Hope
Mr. George R. Beyer

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The Council on Environmental Quality's regulations in 40 CFR Part 1506.6(r) state that where there is "substantial environmental controversy concerning the proposed action..." the appropriate government agency should "...sponsor public hearings or public meetings...". The NRC considers its ongoing meetings to be responsive to both the requirements and the intent of these regulations. Based on discussions between the staffs of the CEQ and NRC, it is NRC's understanding that the current program of meetings to obtain input on the draft PEIS is consistent with the Council's views on this issue.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Meetings List
2. NUREG-0732

Harrisburg Monthly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
1100 N. Sixth Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

September 29, 1980

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

At its regular monthly meeting for business held yesterday, Harrisburg Friends Meeting approved writing you this letter.

Our members for the most part live in Central Pennsylvania just a few miles from the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station and thus are deeply concerned personally by past and future developments there. We also are the Quaker Meeting located in the capital of the Commonwealth founded nearly 300 years ago by the Quaker, William Penn, and our concern is motivated as well by our deeply held religious beliefs.

We feel, as do others, that there are serious flaws in the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission August 14 and relating to decontamination and disposal of radioactive wastes from Three Mile Island's Unit 2.

We want to record our support of the letter sent to you on September 17, 1980, by Steven C. Sholly of the TMI-Public Interest Resource Center and representatives of other organizations. We ourselves have two specific requests to make:

First, we ask that public hearings be held on the issues raised by the draft statement, in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations calling for such hearings when there is "substantial environmental controversy concerning the proposed action or substantial interest in holding the hearing." We recommend four hearings, held in the Harrisburg-Middletown area and elsewhere with the record of the hearings incorporated into the NRC evaluation leading to its final programmatic statement.

Second, the Meeting asks that you meet with residents of this area so they can discuss with you personally the issues raised and your own role in protecting the health and safety of residents and workers at the site during the decontamination process.

We also wish to express our appreciation of the decision of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to extend the period for public comment on the PEIS from 45 to 90 days.

We write out of our deep religious concern over the effect of events at Three Mile Island upon human lives and, indeed, upon the whole of our environment. We hope that you will give this letter your prayerful consideration and that we may hear from you soon.

On behalf of Harrisburg Meeting,

John G. Hope
John G. Hope, Clerk

George R. Beyer
George R. Beyer, Recording Clerk

cc: Sen. Richard S. Schweiker
Sen. H. John Heinz
Rep. Allen E. Ertel
Rep. William F. Goodling
Gov. Dick Thornburgh
Chairman John Ahern, NRC ✓
Gus Speth, CEC

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