



CHAIRMAN

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

COMMISSION  
CORRESPONDENCE

December 12, 1980

Mr. John Minnich  
Chairman, Dauphin County Comm.  
P. O. Box 1295  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108

Dear Mr. Minnich:

In response to your letter of November 18, 1980, I appreciate the difficulty posed by time constraints governing the Panel's analysis of the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Consequently, I hope a one-month extension to February 28, 1981 from the original schedule will be sufficient to permit the Panel to coordinate and transmit its advice to the Commission. In light of the current situation at TMI-2 I believe, and I hope you will agree, that the best efforts of all concerned need to be employed to avoid potentially serious delays in accomplishing safe cleanup of the plant. I expect that this still abbreviated schedule for the Panel's first task, which was necessitated by the Panel's recent formation some three months following publication of the draft PEIS, will not be typical of future tasks. I understand that, subsequent to the letter to me, the Panel has been successful in scheduling two meetings during the month of December. Please advise Dr. Travers or me if additional administrative assistance would help the Panel meet the current schedule for PEIS analysis.

I appreciate your passing along the concern that York and Lebanon Counties are not represented on the Panel. Although established by the NRC, the Advisory Panel's representation is based directly on proposed Congressional legislation (HR 7981) which provides for members from Pennsylvania state agencies, local governments, the scientific community and citizens living in the vicinity of TMI. Representation for each county surrounding TMI was not proposed in the draft legislation; hence specific county residence was not a criteria for selecting the current panelists.

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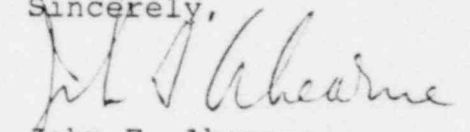
Mr. John Minnich

- 2 -

Additionally, I believe that the Panel's current membership includes a diversity which should act to assure meaningful dialogue on issues relating to the cleanup.

Again I would like to wish you and the Panel success in your efforts.

Sincerely,



John F. Ahearne  
Chairman