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

July 8: - 176

Docket No. 50-320

JAN 8 1981



Russell W. Peterson, President
National Audubon Society
950 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Peterson:

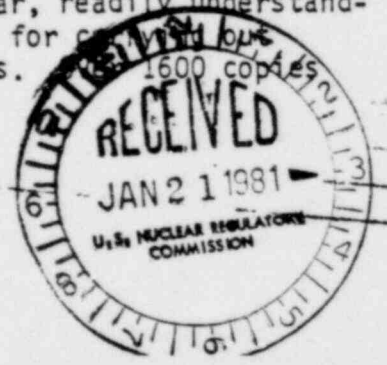
This is in response to your letter of December 16, 1980, to Chairman Ahearne requesting extension of the comment period for review of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) related to decontamination and disposal of radioactive wastes at Three Mile Island Unit 2.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shares your concerns about obtaining adequate public input on the draft PEIS. The comment period was extended to 90 days in order to provide sufficient time for review. In addition, as one means of assuring adequate public input on the cleanup, the NRC instituted a series of meetings with the public and local officials in Pennsylvania and Maryland. A listing of thirty-one completed meetings is enclosed for your information.

The format of these meetings was 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 were also available at these meetings to respond to questions from the audience.

Starting with the public meeting in Annapolis, verbatim transcripts were made of each meeting. The audience was informed in advance that transcript copies would 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 was 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.

Also, 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 was made available at all of these meetings. This report was prepared to provide a clear, readily understandable explanation for the lay public of alternative methods for cleanup activities and their possible environmental impacts. 1600 copies of this report have been distributed outside NRC to date.



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Mr. Russell W. Peterson

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At the time the Draft PEIS was issued, we knew changes would be required. That is the purpose of a draft. These changes will be made in the Final PEIS which is scheduled for issuance in March 1981.

I hope the above information proves useful to you.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

Enclosures:

- 1. List of meetings
- 2. NUREG-0732

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