

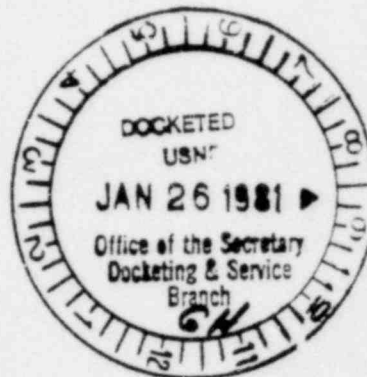
81-0052

DOCKET NUMBER **50-281**  
 PROD. & UTIL. FAC.

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



JAN 16 1981



The Honorable Berkley Bedell  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bedell:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Mr. William H. Rackle concerning the restart of the Three Mile Island Unit 1.

Unit 1 was down for refueling at the time of the accident at TMI-2 in late March 1979. On July 2, 1979, the Commission ordered that the facility remain in cold shutdown until further order of the Commission, stating that "the Commission presently lacks the requisite reasonable assurance that the...Licensee's Three Mile Island Unit No. 1 Facility...can be operated without endangering the health and safety of the public." Further, the Commission stated that public hearings would be conducted to determine whether TMI-1 should be allowed to resume operation and, if so, under what conditions.

In a subsequent order issued August 9, the Commission established procedures for the hearings and decision on the issues. The hearings began before an NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on October 15, 1980. The current estimate is that a Board decision will not be made before mid-1981. I am enclosing for your further information an announcement that the NRC received from its Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and the Committee's status report on the restart of TMI-1.

I hope that this information is helpful in responding to Mr. Rackle.

Sincerely,

*Carlton Kammerer*  
 for Carlton Kammerer, Director  
 Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:  
 As stated

8102030 443

H

DS03  
5  
11