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

MAR 19 1981



The Honorable Richard A. Gephardt  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gephardt:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your consistent, Clifford P. Smith, concerning the restart of the Three Mile Island Unit 1 and the cleanup of Three Mile Island Unit 2.

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 states 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 hearing 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 late 1981. I am enclosing for your further information a memorandum that the NRC received from the TMI-1 Licensing Board on the status of the restart proceedings.

With regard to the cleanup at TMI-2, the NRC staff issued a final environmental impact statement on March 9, 1981 in which it concludes that existing methods are adequate, or can be modified, to perform all necessary cleanup operations without incurring significant environmental impacts. I am also enclosing a press release which further details the conclusions of the FEIS.

I hope this information is helpful in responding to your consistent.

Sincerely,

Carlton Kammerer, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs



Enclosure:  
As stated

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