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ATOMIC SAFETY AND
LICENSING BOARD PANEL

Ivan Smith, Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Smith:

I do not believe Unit I of Three Mile Island should be restarted. In the first place, a nuclear power plant should never have been built on Three-Mile Island. It was not built away from population centers. It is located next to Harrisburg International Airport (anyone who has ever flown into that airport can tell of the shocking experience of looking down into a cooling tower as the plane skims over for a landing), and it is built in the middle of a river that floods. As I recall, Three-Mile Island was under water during the flood of 1972. Harrisburg Airport was flooded and the only way we could cross the river on the way back from our vacation was by the Turnpike bridge, everything else was under water. Plans for a nuclear power plant should never have been approved in the first place.

Another reason that TMI I should not start up is that it is operated by Met. Ed. and it is very close to the damaged Unit II and all the radioactive waste that is stored on the Island. Met. Ed. should concentrate totally on the safe cleanup of Unit II. Unit II is dangerous and is in an unstable condition. If something should go wrong there during the cleanup, and I expect it will, due to the serious nature of the cleanup, I want them to be in a position where they have only one plant to worry about. If there is an emergency at Unit II, I don't think Met. Ed. should be in a position where they would have to worry about shutting down Unit I at the same time they are trying to handle an emergency at Unit II.

Another reason TMI I should not be allowed to reopen is that there is no workable evacuation plan. No evacuation plan has been approved. There is no way that even the public school children could be evacuated. There simply aren't enough buses available. Next year each of my four children will be at a different school. I hate to think of an emergency or evacuation. I can imagine myself rivited to one spot not knowing which direction to go first to collect my children from school. As far as I have been able to find out, my nursery school child in York isn't even covered in any evacuation plan. I would have to drive against traffic to get this child.

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I will probably never fully recover from the experience of the TMI accident. I have suffered anxiety and stress-related health problems. My confidence and sense of well-being has suffered beyond measure. Not only was Met. Ed. incompetent when it came to operating the plant, but it cared nothing for the well-being of the people living in the area. Met. Ed. cared only for their profits. They didn't even notify the Governor at once. They should have been honest from the start and said: We have a serious problem, send expert help and prepare to evacuate the surrounding area. Instead they lied and lied, hour after hour and day after day. Not being prone to hysteria, I stayed on with my children for several days trying to digest all the conflicting information and trying to make an educated decision as to what we should do. Finally, late Sunday afternoon I took my four children and left the area. I should have left Wednesday and I would have left Wednesday if I had had accurate information -- if Met. Ed. hadn't lied. They deliberately misled us. When the study came out showing that TMI had come within 30 to 60 minutes of a meltdown, I felt like a fool and I felt like a bad mother for not having protected my children from a near disaster. There is no way I will ever trust Met. Ed. again. There are certain supposedly comforting phrases that strike fear each time I hear them from Met. Ed.: There is no threat to the public. There is no immediate danger. There is no cause for alarm. After my past experience with Met. Ed. those phrases immediately translate to: be prepared to evacuate.

Even since the accident, Met. Ed. refuses to follow simple instructions and recommendations. For venting the krypton gas they were urged to pipe it higher up into the atmosphere. They didn't do it. They were supposed to vent during cold windy weather so that anything vented would disperse. Instead, they chose to vent during the month of July when the air was hot and stagnant and children were at summer camps nearby, outside for 24 hours per day. My daughter's camp is 3 miles away from the shore of the river in Goldsboro, directly across from the power plant. As an example, on the 4th of July the weather was sweltering hot and the winds were 2-3 MPH and yet TMI vented all day. There is a smokestack nearby TMI. We could see the smoke coming out of that smokestack and just hanging in the air. We couldn't see the krypton gas, but we knew that if the smoke wasn't dispersing, the krypton wasn't either. Met. Ed. simply does not care about people. They care only about their profits. I don't trust them at all. Keep TMI I and II shut down. Hopefully, they may reopen someday converted to some other type of fuel -- please, never again as a nuclear power plant.

Sincerely,



(Mrs.) Francine Woerthwein