



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 23 1981

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Bernard J. Snyder
Three Mile Island Program Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555



Dear Mr. Snyder:

In accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended, the Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS) related to decontamination and disposal of radioactive wastes resulting from the March 28, 1979 accident, Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 2 (NUREG-0683). We believe the final programmatic EIS is adequate and is much improved over the draft EIS.

There are several minor errors, however. In Chapter 11, page 11-5, the EIS states that EPA has ten (10) air samplers available for supplemental monitoring; at this time we actually have 3-5, depending on repair status. The EIS also says we have three (3) compressed air samplers and a tritium sampler available for contingency use; in fact, they all are, or will be, in use.

There are data gaps in the FPEIS that prevent detailed evaluations of alternatives for the disposal of high specific activity wastes and damaged fuel elements. These gaps contribute to uncertainties in arriving at comparative judgements on the impacts of disposing high activity wastes. Therefore the NRC should consider issuing supplements to the FPEIS to make new information available to the public and for use in the NRC decision making process.

Similarly, before a decision is reached on the ultimate disposition of processed water, a supplement should be issued which addresses not only the worst case impacts but also the best controlled conditions for minimizing radiological exposures, psychological stress and other impacts.

8104290 508

D

D019
S/10

Should you have any questions, or if we can help you further, please call Dr. W. Alexander Williams of my staff (755-0790), Mr. Terrence McLaughlin (755-8977) of EPA's Office of Radiation Programs, or Mr. Matthew Bills (426-4452) of EPA's Office of Research and Development.

Sincerely yours,

William N. Hedeman, Jr.
Director
Office of Federal Activities