



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

PROD. & UTIL. DIV. 50-289

MAY 14 1981



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The Honorable Robert Walker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walker:

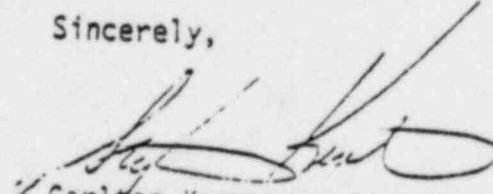
Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of your constituent, Howard L. Gallop, who is concerned about NRC hearings on the restart of the Three Mile Island Unit 1.

As you know, Three Mile Island 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 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 Board has completed hearing testimony on most issues. A few issues, including the evaluation of emergency planning, will be addressed later this summer following completion of the conduct of an emergency drill on June 2. The current estimate is that a Board decision will not be made before October 1981.

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

Sincerely,


Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs



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