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June 7, 1983

Mr. Merle Hendricks  
 19285 White Pine Lane  
 Colorado Springs, CO 80908

Dear Mr. Hendricks:

This is in response to your letter of May 10, 1983, concerning the input from the public on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) related to TMI-2 cleanup.

The NRC had sought for, and received, extensive public participation in the development of the PEIS. Beginning with the planning for the drafting of the PEIS, four scoping meetings were held with interested members of the public. These scoping meetings provided the public with an opportunity to identify the subjects and areas of concern the public would want to be discussed in the PEIS. Following the issuance of the draft PEIS in August 1980, a 90-day public comment period was provided. In order to solicit public involvement, 2,000 copies of the PEIS were distributed. In addition, the NRC staff conducted 31 public meetings with various groups of citizens in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Transcripts of those meetings, as well as letters from the public, were reviewed by the staff and all pertinent comments were addressed in the final PEIS. In all, the final PEIS, which was issued in March 1981, contained over 1,000 comments (of which about 80% came from individuals of the public) and included the NRC staff's response to each of the comments.

A number of comments were received concerning the disposition of processed accident generated water. The disposition of this water is prohibited and none has been disposed of to date. The method for the disposition of this water will require the Commission's approval. The licensee has not made a proposal for the disposition of the water and no decision has been made on the alternative method to be chosen. However, the comments from the public regarding this issue will be taken into consideration and become an important factor in the NRC's decision-making process.

The NRC continues to interact with the public during the cleanup. For this purpose, an NRC staff office in Middletown, PA, is being maintained. Cleanup status reports are routinely disseminated to interested members of the public and periodic meetings are held with local citizen groups. In addition, a TMI Advisory Panel was formed by the Commission in 1981. The Panel membership consists of local officials, citizens of the TMI vicinity and members of the

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local scientific community and provides recommendations on cleanup issues to the Commission. The Panel meets approximately once a month at public meetings to discuss cleanup issues and interested citizens are invited to express their views. In summary, inasmuch as the primary function of the NRC is to protect the health and safety of the public, we consider public input on cleanup matters very seriously and will continue our interaction with the public throughout the cleanup.

I hope that this letter is informative on the concern you raised about public input and its role in the TMI-2 cleanup.

Sincerely,

/s/

Bernard J. Snyder, Program Director  
Three Mile Island Program Office  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation