

Ms. Elizabeth L. Caldwell
1174 Ransom Road
Route 1, Box 272
White Cloud, Michigan 49349

320H
8/22/80

Dear Ms. Caldwell:

Your letter to President Carter about the release of krypton-85 from the Three Mile Island nuclear station and the use of energy other than nuclear power was referred to me for response.

Metropolitan Edison Company submitted to NRC a "Safety Analysis and Environmental Report" (November 13, 1979) in which it evaluated alternative methods for the disposal of the krypton gases, such as purging and cryogenic processing, and selective absorption. NRC also evaluated alternative methods for disposal of the krypton gas to determine what effect decontamination would have on workers, on the public health and safety, and on the environment. Based on its evaluation, NRC issued an environmental assessment (NUREG-0662 and two addenda) for public comment on March 26, 1980, and received approximately 800 comments. These comments were considered in the staff's preparation of the "Final Environmental Assessment for Decontamination of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Reactor Building Atmosphere" (NUREG-0662), vols. 1 and 2, copies of which are enclosed for your information.

From this process have emerged the following NRC staff conclusions:

- The potential physical health impact on the public of using any of the proposed strategies for removing the krypton-85 is negligible.
- The potential psychological impact is likely to grow the longer it takes to reach a decision, get started, and complete the process.
- The purging method is the quickest and the safest for the workers on Three Mile Island to accomplish.
- Overall, no significant environmental impact would result from use of any of the alternatives discussed in the assessment.

On June 12, 1980, the Commission issued an Order for Temporary Modification of License, authorizing controlled purging of the krypton-85 from the reactor building atmosphere. In a separate Memorandum and Order, also issued on June 12, 1980, the Commission discussed rationale for its decision. Actual venting operations began on June 28, 1980, and were completed on July 11, 1980. The

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doses resulting from the purge were well within those predicted in section 7.1 of volume 1 of NRC's final environmental assessment. Copies of both Commission issuances are also enclosed.

Regarding your desire to gradually phase out nuclear power, NRC's primary responsibility consists in the licensing, inspection, and enforcement of regulations for nuclear power plants in the interest of public health and safety and for the protection of the environment. Changes in NRC's regulatory responsibilities can stem from the public's will and the resulting Congressional action.

With respect to alternative methods of energy production, such as solar, wind, and geothermal, the Department of Energy is the federal agency responsible for their research and development. NRC considers these alternative methods of energy production in its assessment of the environmental impact of each nuclear power plant as part of the agency's overall review of each utility's application for a construction permit or an operating license. To date, we have determined that alternative methods of energy production are neither technically nor economically feasible to provide the required amount of power at the time it is needed.

I appreciate your concerns and assure you that every effort is being made to ensure the continued protection of the health and safety of the public, not only at Three Mile Island, but also at all nuclear power plants.

Sincerely,

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

- Enclosures: 1. NUREG-0562, vols. 1 & 2
 2. Order for Temporary Modification of License of June 12, 1980
 3. Memorandum and Order of June 12, 1980

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Docket 50-289	BSnyder
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Elizabeth L. Caldwell
1174 Ransom Rd Rt 1 Box 2
White Cloud, Mich. 49349

President James Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Carter,

I am a 32 year old single parent of twins 4 yrs. old, a boy and a girl. Up until March 1980 I had never been a political activist and then I saw on the news a film clip of the people at Three Mile Island. They were terrified about the releasing of Krypton gas from the containment building. A friend gave me a book "SHUT DOWN" and I started to read everything I could. Within two weeks I had a petition with 200 signatures (in a small town that's not bad) asking the NRC not to release the gas. Instead of the 2 week decision date set they waited until everyone had calmed down, around May 14, then let it go. It is inhumane.

We have no choice whether we want to be exposed to radiation or not. That is no way to treat people in what is supposed to be a free country. We do not have freedom of choice in the most important decision there is. Radioactivity and our #1 asset, our health.

I did not stop and I won't. April 26th 1980 I had pulled together an Anti-Nuclear Race March in support of the March in Wash. DC. April 26-28 1980 Considering I had learned about the March on Wash. only 2 1/2 weeks before it happened, it was of very positive results. We made on the local and the national news and in many newspapers. Because of this effort I am now in contact with many environmentalist groups including Plenty, Greenpeace, Nova (of Mich.) and many many more. I am also in support of the Ancient Indian Treaties and am working with the Ottawa Indians here in Mich.

We in Mich. are working on informing as many people as we can. The above has been the result of only 3 months work. Just think of how much you could do to help us in 3 months. Starting the gradual phase out of Nuclear Power, the stopping of the production of Nuclear Weapons (we have enough to blow us out away 3 times over) you would think in such a technological world we would be able to lay down arms for peace, and an all out effort to supply all people in our nation with their own energy source. The mass development of Solar power, wind power and the redevelopment of water power.

To hell with the multinationals who would take human lives in order to put money into their own pockets. The only reason as can see, that this has not been done already is that the power over the people would be greatly lost. Its a monopoly. And now they are starting to control across ground power by being granted the largest portion of moneys for the development of our wind, sun, & water. Please stop this insanity!

With Iran, Afghanistan, Mt. St. Helens, the riots in Miami, the smelting of Jordan, 120 people arrested for protesting the launching of the Trident Sub, USS Michigan another war machine, protesters beaten with clubs at Sealbrook, N.H. and now the Love Canal, many of us feel the prophecies of the bible and the Indians are coming true. And with all the technological development we are running out of land to grow food. What next, import food?

Please, Mr. President, turn us around before we cannot turn back. Make peace not bombs. Feed people not profiteers. What about the children?

P.S.
Donations are cheerfully accepted.

A reply would be greatly appreciated.
"I'd be with you in your decision".

Sincerely,
Eipert L. Caldwell
(group organizer of)

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