



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

OCT 10 1980

Mr. Dale Strickler
RD #2, Box 1026
Mount Joy, Pennsylvania 17552

Dear Mr. Strickler:

Your letter regarding the use of the EPICOR-II water treatment system at the Three Mile Island nuclear station was referred to me for response. I regret that this answer has been delayed. The accident and its consequences have created a substantial increase in the agency's workload, which has prevented me from responding to you as promptly as I would have liked.

The period for public comment on the EPICOR-II environmental assessment was announced in the Federal Register on August 20, 1979, and ended on September 20, 1979. Your letter was received too late to be entered in the public record. A copy of the announcement is enclosed for your information.

I am also enclosing a copy of the Commission's Memorandum and Order on EPICOR-II issued on October 16, 1979, as well as the staff discussion of public comments received on the use of EPICOR-II, which was provided to the Commission during its consideration of EPICOR-II.

Except for releases to the Susquehanna River of liquids containing only low or nondetectable levels of radioactivity, the release of contaminated water is not currently permitted. Although the Commission authorized use of the EPICOR-II water treatment system for processing the waste water stored in tanks in the auxiliary building, we do not currently permit the discharge of water processed by the EPICOR-II system. The disposal of the water processed by EPICOR-II is addressed in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on the decontamination and disposal of radioactive waste at Three Mile Island. Also enclosed for your information is a copy of the PEIS.

As a result of releases containing only low or nondetectable levels of radioactivity, the levels of radioactivity in the Susquehanna are indistinguishable from existing background levels at public water supply intakes from the river. These levels have been confirmed by independent measurements made by the NRC, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

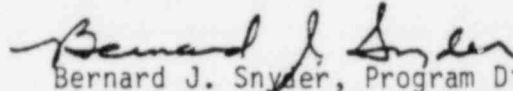
8010280 654 P

Mr. Dale Strickler

- 2 -

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. EPICOR-II Commission Order
2. EPICOR-II Announcement
3. Staff Discussion
4. PEIS