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Docket No. 50-320  
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RBallard

OCT 16 1980

Mrs. Jean Sandy  
321 North 45th Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111

Dear Mrs. Sandy:

Your letter to President Carter about the effects of radiation from the Three Mile Island nuclear station on farm animals and urging the facility's permanent shutdown 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 Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received reports of a variety of animal health problems that have been attributed to the operation and/or accident at Three Mile Island. Examples of reported animal health problems include increases in livestock stillbirths, abortions, and symptoms of nutritional deficiency. Members of NRC's Terrestrial Resources Section are currently preparing a report on possible health effects to farm animals in the vicinity of Three Mile Island. We will send you a copy of the report when it is completed later this year.

With regard to your desire for the permanent shutdown of Three Mile Island, the Commission has ordered that a public hearing be conducted to determine whether TMI-1 should be operated and, if so, under what conditions the restart would take place. Prior to start of the hearings, the NRC staff will conduct a review of technical information concerning the restart of Unit 1. As part of this review, the NRC staff will conduct meetings with the licensee in the presence of the public, and the public will be given the opportunity to raise questions and to make statements. During the hearing, the technical issues that are appropriate to assure the public health and safety will also be addressed. In addition, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has indicated that NRC should consider the psychological impact of future operation on the nearby communities. A copy of the Commission Order that outlines the issues to be considered is enclosed for your information.

As for Unit 2, the licensee has not yet submitted to the NRC a proposal for overall plant recovery, although the licensee is conducting feasibility studies. It is not possible at this time to determine when such proposals for recovery may be submitted or how much time will be needed for the required reviews and approvals in connection with Unit 2's recovery. I would note, however, that the licensee's authority to operate Unit 2, except for those actions necessary to keep the reactor shut down, was suspended by Order of July 20, 1979.

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THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS  
POOR QUALITY PAGES

Mrs. Jean Sandy

OCT 16 1980

The licensee has the primary responsibility to physically carry out decontamination operations. The NRC was created by Congress to regulate the commercial use of nuclear energy. Under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, NRC has the authority to revoke licenses, take possession of special nuclear material (uranium fuel), and license other organizations if necessary. Should Metropolitan Edison be unable to carry out decontamination operations adequately, a number of options are possible, including NRC's licensing another organization to run the facility or NRC's operating the facility itself. Presently, 12 Commission professional representatives are at the TMI site. Their task is to review all proposed cleanup plans, including the review and approval of detailed operating procedures, and to maintain surveillance of those operations that NRC has authorized. No future actions can be taken at the site without the NRC's review and approval.

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

Enclosure:  
 Order and Notice of Hearing  
 dated August 9, 1979

bcc: Ronald Ballard, NRC

\*NOTE: SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR CONCURRENCE

|           |              |            |                      |  |  |
|-----------|--------------|------------|----------------------|--|--|
| OFFICE ▶  | TMIPO        | TMIPO      | <del>DIS</del> TMIPO |  |  |
| SURNAME ▶ | *MDuncan/hmt | *DBrinkman | BJSnyder             |  |  |
| DATE ▶    | 9/26/80      | 9/29/80    | 10/1/80              |  |  |

BDW  
NPC

20 MAR 1980

Wednesday  
Feb 27th  
1980

Mr President,

I am writing to you  
in regards to Three Mile Island.  
Have you forsagan the people  
of this Area. We now have  
Animals dying. Farmers within  
a 5 to 10 mile radius are  
having very serious problems.  
I live within 10 miles of this  
monster and am in fear  
everyday for the lives of my  
2 grandsons. God knows how  
much we have been hurt  
health wise already. This place  
must never open again. The  
real truth has never been  
told to us people. I beg you

to do something about this  
awful mess. This caused  
effect not only over area but  
the who last coast.

{ I MI was admittedly spewing  
forth redaction ever since it  
gird up. }

Ie can't survive under these  
conditions. I know I am 1 voice  
among thousands in this area  
who feel the same way.

I hope you as President of  
The United States will not let  
us down and <sup>to</sup> line under these  
conditions.

Thanking you  
Mrs Jean Sandy  
321 Nth 4-5th St  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17111