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Mr. Shlomo Kovalski
McGill University
Foster Radiation Laboratory/#407
3610 University Street
Montreal, Canada H3A 2B2

Dear Mr. Kovalski:

I am writing in response to your July 1, 1980, letter suggesting additional radiation monitoring in the area of Three Mile Island.

Monitoring around the TMI site and in nearby communities during decontamination of TMI is being performed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Metropolitan Edison Company (the licensee). In addition to their own direct monitoring, the Department of Energy and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania sponsored a Community Radiation Monitoring Program that involved citizens from 12 communities in an approximate 5-mile circle around TMI. About 50 individuals participated in training classes conducted by members of the Nuclear Engineering Department of Pennsylvania State University.

The very comprehensive radiological monitoring program provided by the cooperation of these organizations during purging of krypton-85 consisted of direct and indirect measurements of exposure rates and sampling of all appropriate media at numerous locations in the offsite area within 15 miles of TMI-2. Exposure rate measurements were made using recording and nonrecording rate meters and thermoluminescent dosimeters. I believe that fixed thermoluminescent dosimeters are more appropriate in this case than personal film badges. Otherwise, we would have to document movements of each wearer, giving times and places to account for varying background radiations (which can range by a factor of 2 in an area). We would even have to consider whether the wearer lives in a brick, stone, or wooden frame house.

Section 8 of the enclosed "Final Environmental Assessment for Decontamination of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Reactor Building Atmosphere" (NUREG-0662) discusses the radiological environmental monitoring program used during purging operations. Actual purging operations began on June 28, 1980, and were completed on July 11, 1980. The doses resulting from the purge were well within those predicted in section 7.1 of NUREG-0662.

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Mr. Shlomo Kovalski

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The Environmental Protection Agency has been named by the White House as the lead federal agency for conducting a comprehensive long-term environmental radiation surveillance program as follow-up to the accident at TMI.

Thank you for your suggestion.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure: NUREG-0662

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