

S. Kowalski,  
Foster Radiation Lab, #407  
3610 University St.,  
Montreal, H3A 2B2  
July 1, 1980.

Director,  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dear Sir:

It has been widely reported that the venting of large amounts of Krypton gas in the Three Mile Island containment building has resulted in growing concern amongst the populace of the surrounding region. Apparently, the public trusts neither in your ability to monitor nor in your honesty to report actual radiation levels in the environment. I must add that I feel the public is perfectly justified in maintaining such an attitude. I propose that for a quite reasonable sum of money, it should be possible to allay much concern

The use of personal dosimeter film badges, sensitive to gamma and x-rays, is common in hospital radiography departments and such a facility as the McGill cyclotron. The

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cost of such badges is not excessive and can undoubtedly be reduced by making mass purchases from the manufacturers. If such badges were affixed to, say, the outsides of the approximately twenty-five to thirty-five thousand homes I would guess to be within a ten-mile radius of the plant, residents would be assured of a continuous, accurate, and personalized record of exposure levels. If levels are found to be sufficiently low, films could be replaced and developed bi-monthly rather than monthly as is common. I imagine the residents would gladly defray some of the costs but the power company should bear the brunt. It is their plant after all.

To summarize, the use of gamma sensitive film badges offers a quick and inexpensive method of protecting the public from excessive radiation doses and, perhaps more importantly offers a way to reduce public anxiety.

Yours truly,  
Shome Ford