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REGULATORY DIVISION SERVICES

REGULATORY DIVISION

Docket No. 50-320

Mr. Fred H. Heiner
1975 Rutgers Circle
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Dear Mr. Heiner:

I am writing in response to your letter to President Carter urging restoration and preservation of financial integrity of Three Mile Island Nuclear Station.

Under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, NRC has the statutory authority to ensure that the public health and safety will be protected should Metropolitan Edison Company be unable to carry out its responsibilities as a licensee. At present, however, the resources necessary for NRC to implement its direct involvement in Met Ed activities are not authorized. Nevertheless, existing statutes do give NRC the final authority to decide who assumes responsibility for a facility when a licensee cannot continue its operation.

You stated that "we must move forward with nuclear power and the practical alternative fuel sources". The former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) had a Congressional mandate to develop and promote nuclear energy. When the AEC was abolished in 1974, the NRC was created by Congress for the sole purpose of regulating the commercial production of nuclear energy. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is now responsible for the Federal Government's nuclear research and development activities. Consequently, questions about the future of this energy source should be directed to that agency.

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 our 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.

Sincerely,

JS
Bernard J. Snyder, Program Director
TMI Program Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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1975 Rutgers Circle
East Lansing, Michigan 48823
March 24, 1980

The President of the United States
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:


As a shareholder of General Public Utility (GPU), I urge you to support the restoration and preservation of the financial integrity of the corporation.

The unanticipated expenses associated with the Three Mile Island Unit No. 2 accident on March 28, 1979 has presented the corporation with severe cash flow problems.

We must continue to move forward with nuclear power and the practical alternative fuel sources because continued dependence on non-domestic oil is unreasonable. When the industry implements the recommendations of the Kemeny Commission, nuclear energy will be a safe energy option.

Your positive involvement in this effort will greatly accelerate our country's goal of energy independence.

Sincerely,


Fred H. Heiner

