



*File Containment Purge*

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

*Espinher  
Collins  
C. J. ...*

March 13, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Ahearne  
Commissioner Gilinsky  
Commissioner Kennedy  
Commissioner Hendrie  
Commissioner Bradford

FROM: Edward J. Hanrahan *EJH*

SUBJECT: DECONTAMINATION OF THE TMI-2 REACTOR BUILDING ATMOSPHERE  
(SECY-80-132)

At yesterday's Commission meeting on this subject, you were briefed on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for decontamination of the TMI-2 reactor building atmosphere, including various alternatives which have been considered by the staff. As a result of this meeting, the staff is now proceeding to obtain public comments on the EA by March 27.

The staff paper (SECY-80-132) transmitting the EA mentioned a possible modification to the purging alternative, to release the building atmosphere over a shorter period than the licensee's proposal of 60 days. Mention was also made of the possibility of release from a point higher than the 160 ft. plant vent stack. However, the EA does not address either of these possibilities.

If the decision were made to purge the reactor building atmosphere there probably would be some advantages in releasing more quickly and at a higher elevation. From a policy perspective, it would appear that public anxiety could be reduced if purging were to be completed promptly (consistent with maintaining acceptably low off-site doses).

If public comments are requested on the EA without any assessment of this possible modification, a later decision to purge more quickly (and from a higher elevation) would be undesirable without solicitation of further public comments. This could further delay a decision.

Accordingly, it is suggested that the staff be asked to promptly supplement the EA to cover an assessment of possibility of a quicker purge from a higher elevation so as to keep this option open, consistent with the desire to make a prompt decision.

Contact:  
Bernie Snyder, OPE  
63-43276

A suggested memorandum is attached for your consideration.

Attachment:  
As stated

cc: Sam Chilk  
Leonard Bickwit  
Harold Denton  
Richard Vollmer

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR: William Dircks  
Acting Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk  
Secretary

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR DECONTAMINATION OF THE TMI-2  
REACTOR BUILDING ATMOSPHERE

The Commission requests that the staff, as promptly as possible, provide for public comment an assessment of the alternative of purging the reactor building atmosphere from a higher elevation than the plant vent stack and in a shorter time than 60 days. Comments should be solicited on this assessment along with the subject Environmental Assessment (NUREG-0662).

cc: Chairman Ahearne  
Commissioner Gilinsky  
Commissioner Kennedy  
Commissioner Hendrie  
Commissioner Bradford  
Leonard Bickwit  
Edward Hanrahan