

TMI site Rdy.

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



OCT 15 1979

Mr. Warren Nechodom
83 Sibert Street
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Nechodom:

Your letter of July 30, 1979, to President Carter expressing concern for a proposed NRC two-year delay for the restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1 (TMI-1) was referred to me for reply.

On July 2, 1979, the Commission ordered that TMI-1 remain in a cold shutdown condition until further order by the Commission itself and stated that a public hearing would be held prior to restart of TMI-1. The Commission believes that public participation is a vital ingredient dealing with those matters related to the TMI-1 restart.

On August 9, 1979, the Commission issued an additional Order on TMI-1 specifying the basis for the Shutdown Order and the procedures to govern the hearing regarding any TMI-1 restart. On the basis of this hearing, the Commission will determine whether any further operation of TMI-1 will be permitted, and if so, under what conditions. I have enclosed a copy of the August 9, 1979 Order for your information.

The Commission's Order also identifies a number of items that must be resolved prior to restart. These items, which are listed in pages 5-7 of the Order, include but go beyond that required for restart of other Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) design pressurized water reactors similar to TMI 1/2. Included in these additional items are items recommended by the Lessons Learned Task Force which studied the TMI accident.

The Commission carefully considered the time required for completing all tasks related to the Order on TMI-1 and which must be completed prior to any restart of TMI-1. A Commission schedule calling for expeditious handling of the necessary NRC staff actions and procedural actions required for the hearing process is provided on the last page of the Commission's Order. Based on that schedule, I do not believe that the restart of TMI-1 could occur before September 1980, approximately one year from the date of issuance of the August 9, 1979 Order.

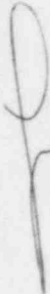
Mr. Warren Nechodom

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While we are all concerned about conserving oil the primary objective of NRC regulation is in the assurance of public health and safety.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
E. G. Case



Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
August 9, 1979 Order

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