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September 23, 1982
 4410-82-L-0007

TMI Program Office
 Attn: Mr. L. H. Barrett, Deputy Program Director
 US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 c/o Three Mile Island Nuclear Station
 Middletown, PA 17057-0191

Dear Sir:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (TMI-2)
 Operating License No. DPR-73
 Docket No. 50-320
 Reactor Building Decontamination

As discussed in our meeting of September 1, 1982, the background and safety evaluation for the on-going containment decontamination activities is hereby submitted for your information.

Decontamination efforts to be undertaken are directed toward the relaxation of respiratory protection and protective clothing requirements as appropriate. These are desirable goals in that worker efficiency will be increased and lead to economizing man-rem resources, problems of heat stress will be minimized, and waste volumes will be reduced. Additionally, to the extent that superficial contaminants contribute to general area dose rates, it is anticipated that some reduction in area dose rates will be realized.

The planned decontamination efforts include all levels of the Reactor Building except Elevation 282'. These activities have been designed to use the most effective techniques, as demonstrated in the Decontamination Experiment. In some cases, the techniques have been extended to include refinements which allow previously inaccessible areas to be flushed, increase the margin of safety and/or permit minimum operator involvement. However, these refinements do not significantly alter the pressure or temperature regimes evaluated in the Decontamination Experiment.

It must be recognized that other decontamination techniques will be evaluated for their safety, efficiency, and effectiveness, and that it would be less than diligent if superior techniques did not replace, where appropriate, those selected for the initial activities. To this end, it would be appropriate to include those techniques in the operations planning upon an evaluation of any safety issues which differ from those addressed in the attached document.

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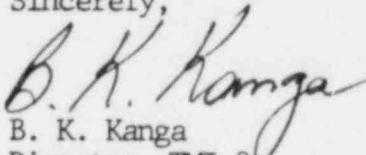
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Decontamination of the Reactor Building is a requirement for recovery operation to proceed in a safe and efficient manner and the continuing decontamination operations to be undertaken in the next weeks are significant steps in supporting the overall program.

The attached document discusses the scope of the ongoing containment decontamination activities and includes an evaluation of techniques, as compared to the Gross Decon Experiment techniques. Also included are evaluations of onsite and offsite radiological impacts, radioactive waste management plans, a summary of industrial safety issues, and a safety evaluation for the subject decontamination activities. The safety evaluation concludes that the ongoing containment decontamination program does not constitute an unreviewed safety question and can be conducted without undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely,


B. K. Kanga
Director, TMI-2

BKK:RBS:djb

Attachment

cc: Dr. B. J. Snyder, Program Director, TMI Program Office