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SECY (79-3182 & 3286)

DEC 13 1979

The Honorable Catherine I. Riley
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Ms. Riley:

Your November 23, 1979, letter to Dr. Hendrie regarding the disposal of processed water at Three Mile Island (TMI) was referred to me for reply.

We understand your concern regarding the release of water from the Three Mile Island facility. Let me assure you that we will not permit any water to be discharged to the Susquehanna River that does not, as a minimum, meet the Three Mile Island, Unit 2, technical specification limits for an operating reactor and our regulations. The discharge water processed by the EPICOR-II system is not currently permitted even though the effectiveness of the EPICOR-II system has been better than predicted in our Environmental Assessment. As required by the Commission's Statement of May 25, 1979, concerning the use of EPICOR-II, the disposal of processed water will be addressed in a separate Environmental Assessment which will be made available for public comment. Since Metropolitan Edison has not yet provided a proposal on the method of disposal of the decontaminated water, we have not yet initiated our preparation of the Environmental Assessment. We anticipate that it will be several months before any decisions on the disposal of the water are made.

Concerning your request for a meeting with an NRC representative, Mr. Vollmer, Director of TMI operations, would be happy to meet in the near future with elected officials and citizens in the Harford-Cecil County area of Maryland to discuss your concerns regarding the cleanup process and disposal of the decontaminated water or any other concerns you may have regarding the TMI-2 cleanup. Please contact Mr. Vollmer on (301) 492-7347 at your earliest convenience to arrange for such a meeting.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
Representative Robert E. Bauman

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NOTE: SEE ADD'L YELLOW COPY FOR PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES*

OFFICE	TMI	D/TMI Sup.	ED/NRR	D/NRR
SURNAME	SMiner/jm	RVollmer*	ECASE	HDenton
DATE	12/7/79	12/7/79	12/11/79	12/12/79