

DMB 0/6

September 6, 1984

Docket No. 50-289

Mr. Richard Gibson
c/o The School of Living
R.D. 7, Box 388
York, Pennsylvania 17402

Dear Mr. Gibson:

At the limited appearance session for the Three Mile Island Unit 1 steam generator hearing which was held in Middletown on July 16 and 17, 1984 you raised two questions. Your paraphrased questions, and the NRC Staff's answers, are attached.

I trust this letter is responsive to your questions.

Sincerely,

"ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:"
Mary E. Wagner
Counsel for NRC Staff

Attachment: As stated

cc: Service list

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1. If Three Mile Island Unit 1 is converted to coal as a heat source, will the steam generator tube corrosion problems still exist?
2. Is it feasible to convert Three Mile Island Unit 1 to hydroelectric or some alternative energy source?

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, specify the areas of Nuclear Regulatory Commission responsibility. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's involvement in any conversion from nuclear energy to another heat source would be associated with ensuring that the public health and safety is protected from residual radiation from the original nuclear components. If a decision were made to convert Three Mile Island Unit No. 1 to an alternative heat source, the Licensee would not use all components which are part of the nuclear plant. The NRC would review which components would be used after a conversion and ensure that appropriate measures were incorporated to protect the public from residual radioactivity.

In the event Three Mile Island Unit 1 were converted to an alternative energy source, it is unlikely that the nuclear steam generators would be used. Therefore, the question of possible continued steam generator corrosion is likely moot.

The feasibility of converting TMI-1 to alternate energy sources is best answered by others. We are aware that consideration has been given by some utilities to converting nuclear plants not yet completed to coal operation, but to our knowledge this has not actually been done.

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