

AUG 22 1983

Docket No. 50-289

Ellyn R. Weiss
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Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Weiss:

This is in response to your letter of August 11, 1983 commenting on a memo I wrote in reply to a question Commissioner Gilinsky had posed to me.

Apparently you and I understand the Commissioner's question differently in at least one critical respect. You characterize the question as assuming "that the senior staff knew that the leak rates had been falsified ..." (emphasis added). However, the question itself phrases the premise as follows:

... senior NRC staff members apparently believed by March or April of 1980 that leak rate test results had likely been falsified ..." (emphasis added).

The senior staff did not know that the leak rate test results had been falsified. Rather, the premise of Commissioner Gilinsky's question properly reflects the senior staff's understanding of matters. Since the comments in your letter appear to be predicated upon what I believe to be a misinterpretation of the Commissioner's question, any further response on my part would not appear worthwhile.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

cc: TMI-1 Service List
Chairman Palladino
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Asselstine
Commissioner Bernthal

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