



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

SECRETARIAT RECORD COPY

JUL 21 1983

The Honorable John Heinz
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heinz:

This responds to your letter of June 24, 1983 concerning the steam generator repairs at Three Mile Island Unit 1 (TMI-1). In that letter you urge the Commission to postpone a decision on restarting TMI-1 until a formal public hearing has been held on the steam generator repairs.

On May 31, 1983 the NRC published notice of General Public Utilities' request for a license amendment regarding the steam generator repairs. The notice also contained the NRC's proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration and provided an opportunity for public comment on the proposed determination. Finally, the notice provided for requests for hearing on the requested amendment.

Numerous requests for hearings and comments on the proposed no significant hazards consideration have been received. On July 15, 1983 the hearing requests were referred to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board for appropriate action. With regard to the proposed no significant hazards determination, the NRC staff is in the process of evaluating the comments and preparing a Safety Evaluation Report on the proposed amendment. The Commission will review staff's proposed final determination when it is prepared.

If the decision should be made that there is a significant hazards consideration, then any interested person will be entitled to a public hearing prior to any plant operation under the requested license amendment. If it is decided that there is no significant hazards consideration, however, Public Law 97-415 authorizes the NRC to make the amendment effective prior to any requested hearing. In any event, a prior public hearing may be had as a discretionary matter if the Commission decides that the public interest warrants it. Your letter will be carefully considered in this regard.

Sincerely,

Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

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