

United States Senate

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Chairman Nunzio J. Palladino
Commissioner Thomas M. Roberts
Commissioner James K. Asselstine
Commissioner Fredrick M. Bernthal
Commissioner Lando W. Zech, Jr.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

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Gentlemen:

New information has been brought to my attention that reinforces my conviction that serious public safety and management integrity issues have not been adequately addressed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and that consideration of restarting TMI Unit 1 at this time would be inappropriate.

I am referring to the health study conducted by Norman and Marjorie Aamodt and concerns about GPU management that are raised by the Aamodt Motion for Reconsideration of Commission Order CLI-84-22, filed with the NRC on January 15, 1985. These matters were presented to my office by the Aamodts personally.

The health study concludes that there is a cancer death rate in three areas around the TMI plant that is over seven times the normal expected rate. According to the Motion for Reconsideration, this data has been verified by death certificates provided by the Pennsylvania State Health Department and other sources of population data.

I understand the Center for Disease Control has raised questions about the methodology of the Aamodt study. While this response may indicate the need for further study with better methodology, I do not see how it can justify completely ignoring the cancer risk issue.

In addition, the Aamodt Motion charges that licensee personnel lied when they told the Pennsylvania Bureau of Radiation Protection at the time of the accident that surveillance teams had been dispatched and had verified that a significant release had not occurred. The Motion cites the testimony of a former NRC investigator in support of this allegation.

As I have stated in prior letters, it is extremely troubling that serious issues relevant to restart remain unresolved six years after the accident at TMI. Expeditious resolution of these two particular issues is essential before the Commission decides whether to authorize restart.

Sincerely,

Arlen Specter

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