



PDR

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

January 12, 1988

CHAIRMAN

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

Dear Senator Heinz:

I am responding to your December 10, 1987 letter regarding NRC staffing levels at Three Mile Island (TMI) Unit 2 and the extension of the cleanup schedule. I understand that you have received our response to your October 5, 1987 letter, a December 4, 1987 press release which details the permanent staffing and support plans for TMI-2, and a November 5, 1987 Commission paper. These documents, which have been recently reviewed with your staff, provide our reasoning for the reorganization of the TMI-2 cleanup staff. Effective licensee management, substantial cleanup progress and a significant reduction in the potential hazard from cleanup operations were all important factors in arriving at this decision.

Extensions to the utility's cleanup schedule result from resolution of technical considerations necessary to ensure safe continued progress in cleanup operations. Regulatory oversight of the remaining cleanup activities will be accomplished by both the onsite inspectors and Region I personnel and will be supported by headquarters project management and technical staff. To facilitate expeditious action on cleanup issues reviewed by headquarters, an Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation licensing engineer will be maintained onsite through defueling.

The Commission has consistently supported the highest degree of openness for all actions related to the cleanup and continues to do so. For this reason, the staff has already briefed officials of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Chairman of the Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of TMI-2. The full Advisory Panel will be briefed on this matter on January 13, 1988 in Harrisburg in a public meeting. In addition, NRC staff is ready to brief you at a your convenience.

We assure you that we share your interest in the safe cleanup at TMI-2, that all of our activities and decisions concerning TMI-2 will focus on safety and that NRC will provide the proper resources for timely NRC staff reviews and approvals of remaining cleanup activities. We will keep you and the citizens of Pennsylvania informed of the progress of these activities.

Sincerely,

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PDR COMMS NRCC
COMMISSION PDR

Lando W. Zech, Jr.
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