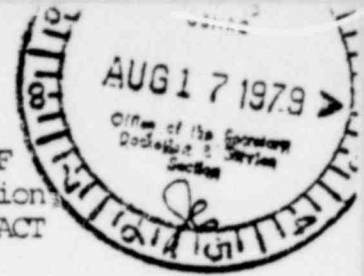


PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE IN THE MATTER OF
METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY (Three Mile Island Nuclear Station,
Unit No. 1) ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 904-A-(e) OF ACT
OF APRIL 9, 1929 (P.L. 177, No. 175), KNOWN AS "THE
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1929", AS AMENDED
BY ACT 161 OF 1976 (APPROVED JULY 9, 1976)



Act 161 of the Pennsylvania General Assembly (approved July 9, 1976) authorizes and confers a duty upon the Consumer Advocate to represent the interest of consumers before any court or agency in connection with any matter involving regulation by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission or corresponding regulatory agency of the United States. In accordance with Section 904-A-(b) of Act 161 the Consumer Advocate has determined in his discretion that it is necessary to participate in hearings to be held before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board on the issue of restarting Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1.

In an Order and Notice of Hearing dated August 9, 1979, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission appointed a three-person panel to constitute an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The Order further establishes an estimated time frame in which the Board is to hold hearings and delineates the subjects to be considered at the hearings. The issues are as follows:

1. Whether the "short term" actions recommended by the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (the Director has recommended eight short term actions ranging from technical alterations at the plant to requiring Metropolitan Edison to demonstrate its financial qualifications to operate TMI 1 safely) are necessary and sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that the Three Mile Island Unit 1 facility can be operated without endangering the health and safety of the public, and should be

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required before resumption of operation should be permitted.

2. Whether the "long term actions" recommended by the Director (the longer term actions deal mainly with emergency procedures at the plant) are necessary and sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that the facility can be operated for the long term without endangering the health and safety of the public, and should be required of Metropolitan Edison as soon as practicable.

While the hearings before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will focus largely on technical issues, the financial ability of Metropolitan Edison to run Three Mile Island 1 safely will be in issue. It is the position of the Consumer Advocate that the Board should make its decision narrowly and that the economic burden on ratepayers should not be increased by an extended proceeding in this forum on the future of nuclear power. Specifically, the Consumer Advocate seeks to protect consumers from bearing all of the costs associated with any decision regarding Three Mile Island 1.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission recognizes the fundamental importance of meaningful public participation in its adjudicative process. The Consumer Advocate seeks to supply such meaningful participation and will urge on behalf of consumers a prompt and definitive decision by the Board and the Commission.

The Consumer Advocate has petitioned for leave to participate under a procedural regulation of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (10 C.F.R. §2.715(c)) that allows a State or an agency thereof to intervene in hearings without taking a position prior to examining all of the relevant evidence. The staff of the Consumer Advocate's Office will be formulating positions on behalf of consumers wherever appropriate so that the consumers' voice is heard in all matters affecting them.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD
Ivan W. Smith, Esquire, Chairman
Dr. Walter H. Jordan, Member
Dr. Linda*W. Little, Member

In the Matter of	:	
	:	
METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY	:	Docket No. 50-289
	:	
(Three Mile Island Nuclear Station,	:	
Unit No. 1)	:	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, WALTER W. COHEN, hereby certify that I have this 15th day of August, 1979 served copies of the foregoing Petition For Leave To Participate on each of the following persons by causing same to be deposited in envelopes addressed to said persons, first class, postage prepaid, and deposited with the United States Postal Service at 813 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105.

Secretary of the Commission
United States Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
Attention: Chief, Docketing and
Service Section

Executive Legal Director
United States Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

George F. Trowbridge, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

WALTER W. COHEN
Consumer Advocate
Office of Consumer Advocate
Strawberry Square, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17127

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