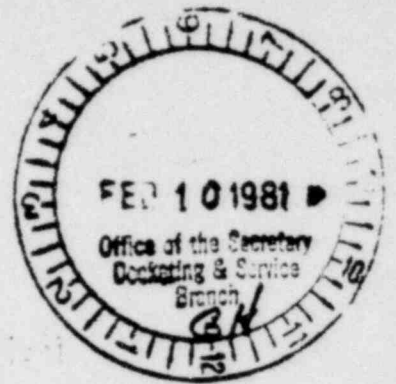




2/4/81



Stuart L. Dicks
Three Mile Island
Middletown, Penn. 17057

Mr. James F. Ahearne, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 1717 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20555

DOCKET NUMBER

50-289

Docket 50-289, TMS-Unit 1, Middletown, PA

Dear Sir:

It has come to my attention that our government shut down, and has kept shut down, Three-Mile Island Unit 1, which was not involved in, nor damaged by, the accident that knocked out TMS Unit 2 nearly two years ago; and, further, that your Commission is considering, or is about to consider, whether to permit resumption of operation by Unit 1.

Unit 1, I am told, is essentially like many other nuclear plants around the country, for all of which modifications were ordered after the accident. These plants continue to produce power, without creating problems, while the modifications are being made -- except for Three-Mile Island Unit 1, which remains shut down, producing no power, although the modifications have been made. What is the logic of this situation? Was there real need to shut down Unit 1 in the first place? Why couldn't it have continued to produce power, like the others of its kind?

It costs Metropolitan Edison and its customers \$500,000 a day extra to burn coal and oil instead of using uranium. Shutting down and keeping shut down a plant that has not been damaged, and yet has been made safer than it used to be, looks like discrimination to me. Or is it some kind of punishment?

As the members of NRC review the case of TMS-1, I hope that they will bear in mind that (1) Nuclear power is safe, inexpensive, and needed; (2) TMS-1 is different from TMS-2; (3) TMS-1 has been modified and should be restarted without delay; and the fate of TMS-1 has waited too long, at too much cost, already.

Sincerely,

Stuart L. Dicks
DS 510

8102120071

H