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STEPHEN R. REED
MAYOR

February 22, 1985

SERVED FEB 22 1985

Mr. Nunzio J. Palladino, Chair
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
United States of America
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Palladino:

Today's official confirmation from the operator of Three Mile Island that some meltdown of the core of TMI Unit 2 did, indeed, occur during the 1979 accident, is a very significant admission. It contradicts previous denials of such.

During the TMI accident, a number of stack monitors, the maximum measuring capacity of which was 1000 REMS, were "stuck" at that level for a period of as much as eight hours. This means, simply, as we understand it, that emissions from the plant exceeded that significant emission level.

Locally, the question of short and long term health effects from TMI's accident and its operations before and since the accident have been vigorously debated. Since no conclusive data exists in the Nation to conclusively identify such effects, there is no local "comfort" from known data either.

I believe that it is imperative that the U.S. Government determine the levels and types of contaminants that would have been and were emitted from TMI during the 1979 accident, particularly in view of the fact a portion of the Unit 2 core actually melted under temperatures higher than what were ever previously projected to have occurred.

I further believe that it should not be so easily dismissed that because of the emission of such contaminants into a semi-rural atmosphere that these contaminants posed no threat to public health and safety.

NRC records have established, and enforcement action against the TMI operator have revealed, that omission of information has occurred at TMI regarding data. The need for objective and independent data has therefore been established for quite some time.

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