

SEP 19 1979

The Honorable Robert S. Walker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walker:

Thank you for your letter to Mr. C. Kammerer of our Office of Congressional Affairs, dated May 23, 1979. I hope the following information will be helpful to you in responding to the specific concerns of your constituent.

Following the discovery that radioactively contaminated clothing had been misplaced in an unauthorized portion of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Metropolitan Edison Company instituted additional administrative procedures designed to preclude a recurrence of this error. Specifically, these procedures include the following precautions: (1) prior to any trash removal from the protected (innermost fence) area, Health Physics personnel are to be notified in order that a radiation survey can be performed to ensure no radioactive material is present; and (2) contents of all trucks will be surveyed prior to being released from the protected area. To this date, no similar incidents have taken place.

Regarding continuing releases of radioactive liquid effluents, except for discharge of waste water decontaminated by the existing EPICOR-I decontamination system and discharge of slightly contaminated (approximately  $10^{-7}$  microcuries per cubic centimeter (uCi/cc)) waste water from Unit 2 consistent with the facility operating license, discharge of waste water to the Susquehanna is currently prohibited by the Commission (Ref. Commission statement of 5/25/79, a copy of which is enclosed). Controlled releases of small amounts of radioactive liquids and gases are being made from the TMI Nuclear Station, however, all radioactive releases, to both the Susquehanna River and to the atmosphere, are being continuously monitored. The cumulative total of all radioactivity released to the Susquehanna River from the day of the accident (March 28, 1979) to May 31, 1979 (latest available total), is 0.32 curie (Ci), excluding 15.37 Ci of tritium. This compares to a release limit of 10 Ci (excluding tritium) in any calendar quarter of a year, as specified in the technical specifications.

Currently, Iodine-131 release rates to the atmosphere are approximately 1.0 uCi (0.000001 curies) per day which equates to  $1.2 \times 10^{-5}$  uCi per second. This release rate is approximately 600 times below the current technical specification limit for Iodine-131 releases. Noble gas releases from TMI, which average less than 0.0002 Ci/sec, are more than ten times below the NRC established limits.

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The Honorable Robert S. Walker

-2-

to the Susquehanna River, 10.2 million Ci of noble gases and 14 Ci of Iodine-131 released to the atmosphere. An ad hoc population dose assessment group, consisting of scientists from NRC, EPA and HEW, has estimated the collective dose (between March 28 and April 7, 1979) to the total population within a 50-mile radius of the plant to be 3300 person-rems. The estimated maximum dose that an individual located off site in a populated area might have received is less than 100 millirems. This estimate was based on a dosimeter reading of 83 millirems 0.5 miles east-northeast of the site. These estimates would not change significantly if updated to include releases since April 7, 1979, since more than 80% of all TMI releases occurred before April 7, 1979. As a reference, natural background doses in the United States average 100 millirems per year.

If you should have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY R. G. SMITH

Lee V. Gossick,  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:  
Commission Statement of 5/25/79

Distribution:

Docket - 50-289/320  
NRC PDR           NRR r/f  
Local PDR       S&P TMI r/f  
KCornell       TMI Site r/f  
RDavis       TMI/PSS r/f  
Jeanne Cook   DEisenhut  
HDenton       RVollmer  
ECase       JCollins  
PSS       WTravers  
DRoss       Attorney/ELD  
DMuller       OCA (3)  
RMattson       GErtter (EDO#6510)  
EDO r/f       MGroff  
NRR r/f       JMullin  
              DDiIanni

CNelson  
RReid  
PKreutzer  
SMiner

NOTE: \* PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES

Task Force Member       DD/NRR:TMI-2 Sup.  
\*WTravers/jm       NRR - JCollins\*  
8/8/79       8/8/79  
D/NRR:TMI-2 Support  
RVollmer\*  
8/8/79

key 79-1579

OFFICE	AD/DOR	ELD	DD/NRR	D/NRR	EDO	OCA
SURNAME	DEisenhut*	JGray*/LChandler*	ECase*	HDenton*	LVGossick	
DATE	8/8/79	8/10 & 9/7/79	8/10/79	9/10/79	9/10/79	

Pocket 50-287/320

The Honorable Robert S. Walker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walker:

Thank you for your letter to Mr. C. Kammerer of our Office of Congressional Affairs, dated May 23, 1979. I hope the following information will be helpful to you in responding to the specific concerns of your constituent.

Following the discovery that radioactively contaminated clothing had been misplaced in an unauthorized portion of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Metropolitan Edison Company instituted additional administrative procedures designed to preclude a recurrence of this error. Specifically, these procedures include the following precautions: (1) prior to any trash removal from the protected (innermost fence) area, Health Physics personnel are to be notified in order that a radiation survey can be performed to ensure no radioactive material is present; and (2) contents of all trucks will be surveyed prior to being released from the protected area. To this date, no similar incidents have taken place.

Regarding continuing releases of radioactive liquid effluents, except for discharge of waste water decontaminated by the existing EPICOR-I decontamination system and discharge of slightly contaminated (approximately 10-7 uCi/cc) waste water from Unit 2 consistent with the facility operating licenses, discharge of waste water to the Susquehanna is currently prohibited by the Commission (Ref. Commission statement of 5/25/79, a copy of which is enclosed). Controlled releases of small amounts of radioactive materials are being made from the TMI Nuclear Station. All radioactive releases, to both the Susquehanna River and to the atmosphere, are being continuously monitored. The cumulative total of all radioactivity released to the Susquehanna River from the day of the accident (March 28, 1979) to May 31, 1979 is 0.32 Ci (excluding 15.37 Ci of tritium). This is less than the release limit of 10 Ci (excluding tritium) in any calendar quarter of a year, as specified in the technical specifications.

*spec. limit from*  
*OK*  
*clearly liquid?*

Currently, Iodine-131 release rates to the atmosphere are approximately 1.0 uCi (0.000001 curies) per day which equates to  $1.2 \times 10^{-5}$  uCi per second. This release rate is approximately 600 times below the current technical specification limit for Iodine-131 releases. Noble gas releases from TMI which average less than 0.0002 Ci/sec are more than ten times below the NRC established limits.

*OK*

The estimated total amount of radioactivity released from TMI since the accident (March 28 - May 31, 1979) includes 15.66 Ci in liquid discharged

OFFICE									
SURNAME									
DATE									



The Honorable Robert S. Walker

-2-

to the Susquehanna River, 10.2 million Ci of noble gases and 14 Ci of Iodine-131 released to the atmosphere. An ad hoc population dose assessment group, consisting of scientists from NRC, EPA and HEW, has estimated the collective dose (between March 28 and April 7, 1979) to the total population within a 50-mile radius of the plant to be 3300 person-rem. The estimated maximum dose that an individual located off site in a populated area might have received is less than 100 mrem. This estimate was based on a dosimeter reading of 83 mrem 0.5 miles east-northeast of the site. These estimates would not change significantly if updated to include releases since April 7, 1979, since more than 80% of all TMI releases occurred before April 7, 1979. As a reference, natural background doses in the United States average 100 mrem per year.

⑤  
spell  
out  
first  
time

If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

millions

Distribution:

Docket - 50-289/320

NRC PDR Attorney/ELD  
Local PDR OCA (3)  
KCorneil Gertter (EDO#6510)  
RDavis MGroff  
Jeanne Cook JMullin  
HDenton DDilanni  
ECase CNelson  
PSS RReid  
DRoss PCreutzer  
DMuller EDO  
RMattson

EDO r/f

NOTE: SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR ADDITIONAL CONCURRENCES.

NRR r/f

S&P TMI r/f

TMI Site r/f

Task Force Member

DD/NRR:TMI-2 Support

D/NRR:TMI-2 Support

TMI/PSS r/f

WTravers/jm

NRR - JCollins

RVollmer

DEisenhut

8/8/79

8/8/79

8/8/79

RVollmer

JCollins

WTravers

Subject to  
comment  
show

OFFICE	AD/DOR	ELD	DD:NRR	D/NRR	EDO	OCA
SURNAME	DEisenhut	WTravers	ECase	HDenton		
DATE	8/8/79	8/10/79	8/10/79	9/10/79		

Dear Congressman Walker:

Following the discovery that radioactively contaminated clothing had been misplaced in an unauthorized portion of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Metropolitan Edison Company instituted additional administrative procedures designed to preclude a recurrence of this error. Specifically, these procedures include the following precautions: (1) prior to any trash removal from the protected (innermost fence) area, Health Physics personnel are to be notified in order that a radiation survey can be performed to ensure no radioactive material is present; and (2) contents of all trucks will be surveyed prior to being released from the protected area. To this date, no similar incidents have taken place.

The estimated total amount of radioactivity released from TMI since the accident (March 28 - May 31, 1979) includes 15.68 Ci in liquids discharged to the Susquehanna River, 10.2 million Ci of noble gases and 14 Ci of iodine-131 released to the atmosphere. An ad hoc population dose assessment group, consisting of scientists from NRC, EPA and AEC, has estimated

UNIT group, consisting of scientists from IRC, EPA and NRC, has estimated

The Honorable Robert S. Walker -2-

the collective dose (between March 28 and April 7, 1979) to the total population within a 50-mile radius of the plant to be 3300 person-rem. The estimated maximum dose that an individual located off site in a populated area might have received is less than 100 mrem. This estimate was based on a dosimeter reading of 83 mrem 0.5 miles east-northeast of the site. These estimates would not change significantly if updated to include releases since April 7, 1979, since more than 80% of all TMI releases occurred before April 7, 1979. As a reference, natural background doses in the United States average 100 mrem per year.

If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Docket - 50-289/320

NRC PDR

EDO r/f

NRR r/f

S&P TMI r/f

TMI Site r/f

TMI/PSS r/f

DDianni

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JCollins

WTravers

Attorney/ELD

OCA (3)

GErtter (EDO#6510)

MGroff

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WGammill

TJCarter

RReid

PCreutzer

EDD

Task Force Member

WTravers/dr

8/ /79

DD/NRR:TMI-2Support

NRR

JCollins

8/ /79

D/NRR:TMI-2

Support

RVOLLMER/jm

8/ /79

OFFICE	AD/PDR	ELD	DD/NRR	D/NRR	EDO	OCA
SURNAME	DEisenhut	JR GRAY	ECasa	HDeaton		
DATE	8/8/79	8/10/79	8/10/79	8/10/79	8/	





## STATEMENT

The staff is directed to prepare an Environmental Assessment regarding proposals to decontaminate and dispose of radioactively contaminated waste water from the Three Mile Island facility. The Assessment will be divided into several portions. The first portion of the Assessment will deal with the proposed decontamination of intermediate-level waste water using the EPICOR-II system at TMI. The Assessment should include discussion of potential risks to the public health and safety, including occupational exposures and the risk of accidental releases, and a discussion of alternatives to the EPICOR-II system. Pending completion of this portion of the Assessment and opportunity for public comment, the staff should direct the licensee not to operate the EPICOR-II system. Testing of the EPICOR-II system without using contaminated waste may proceed, except for discharge of waste water decontaminated by the existing EPICOR-I decontamination system<sup>1/</sup> and discharge of industrial waste water<sup>2/</sup> as consistent with the facility operating licenses. No discharge of waste water shall be permitted until completion of a second portion of the Assessment dealing with any such proposed discharges. This portion shall include a discussion of alternatives to discharge into the Susquehanna River. The decontamination and disposal of high-level waste water will be the subject of a subsequent Assessment. However, the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation may authorize releases deemed necessary to cope with an

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<sup>1/</sup> Primarily pre-accident waste water from Unit 1 which has been partially contaminated by water from Unit 2, with an activity level of less than 1 microcurie per cc. prior to treatment and with an activity level approximately  $10^{-7}$  microcuries per cc. in the discharge canal after treatment.

<sup>2/</sup> Waste water slightly contaminated (approximately  $10^{-7}$  microcuries per cc.) due to leakage from secondary plant service support systems. The discharge of this industrial waste water is necessary to maintain TMI Unit 2 in a safe condition.

FROM: <b>Rep. Robert W. Walker</b>		ACTION CONTROL		DATES		CONTROL NO.	
		COMPL DEADLINE		<b>6-22-79</b>		<b>06510</b>	
		ACKNOWLEDGMENT				DATE OF DOCUMENT	
		INTERIM REPLY				<b>5-23-79</b>	
TO: <b>Kammerer</b>		FINAL REPLY		<i>6/12/79</i>		PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:	
		FILE LOCATION		<i>Case 6-9149</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN <input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OTHER: <b>Omitted</b>	
DESCRIPTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER				SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS			
<b>Req. information for Jack Leonard re continuing releases of radiation to TMI</b>				<i>Callie</i>			
CLASSIFIED DATA							
DOCUMENT/COPY NO.		CLASSIFICATION					
NUMBER OF PAGES		CATEGORY					
POSTAL REGISTRY NO.		<input type="checkbox"/> NSI <input type="checkbox"/> RD <input type="checkbox"/> PRD		<b>SECT 79-1374</b>			
ASSIGNED TO		DATE		INFORMATION ROUTING		LEGAL REVIEW	
<i>Section</i>		<b>6-8-79</b>		<b>Cornelli</b> <b>Davis</b> <b>Jeanne Cook</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> COPY NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY: <input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRESPONDENCE EXT.	
						COMMENTS, NOTIFY: EXT.	
						JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

NRC FORM 232  
(11-75)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

DO NOT REMOVE THIS COPY



No. 79-1579 Logging Date 5/28/79

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO: ☐ Commissioner ☐ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Exec. Dir./Oper. ☐ Gen. Counsel  
☒ Cong. Liaison ☐ Solicitor  
☐ Public Affairs ☐ Secretary  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Incoming: Rep. Robert S. Walker  
 From: House of Representatives

To: Kammerer Date: 5/23/79  
 Subject: Requests info re continuing releases of radiation from TMI and actions taken re same for constituent, Jack Leonard.

- ☐ Prepare reply for signature of:
- ☐ Chairman
  - ☐ Commissioner
  - ☐ EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY
  - ☐ Signature block omitted.
  - ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Return original of incoming with response

☒ For direct reply\* Suspense: June 11

- ☐ For appropriate action
- ☐ For information
- ☐ For recommendation

Remarks: Cpy: EDO

Rec'd Off. EDO  
 Date... 6/8/79  
 Time... 9:30

For the Commission: gerry

\*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Mail Facility