

OCT 17 1979

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~~Docket~~ No. 50-320

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OCT 17 1979

Docket No. 50-320

Mr. Robert C. Arnold,  
Senior Vice President  
Metropolitan Edison Company  
260 Cherry Hill Road  
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Dear Mr. Arnold:

The Commission and some Congressional Committees have recently expressed concern about the adequacy of the health physics program at TMI. As a result of this, I have established a special panel of health physics experts from within and outside the NRC to review the radiation protection program of the Metropolitan Edison Company at TMI, as currently constituted and planned to support the recovery program, and make their findings in a report to me by December 7, 1979. I have attached to this letter a list of the panel members and a copy of the charter for this panel.

Over the coming weeks the panel will have a need to meet with you and members of your staff to discuss the health physics program in more detail. The panel will work to minimize the impact these interviews may have on your ongoing programs.

Recognizing the attention this matter has received, I solicit your cooperation in assisting the panel in carrying out its charter.

I have been advised by my staff that you have recently engaged the services of two highly qualified health physics consultants to appraise your current health physics program and to define actions that will strengthen your program. I endorse and support your effort in this regard. I believe this action together with the special panel I have established should result in a well balanced program to cope with the unique decontamination and recovery programs planned at TMI.

Sincerely,

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Original signed by  
E. G. Case  
Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Charter for the Panel
2. Special Panel on TMI Radiation  
Office Protection Program

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DATE

OCT 17 1979

R. C. Arnold

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Director, Office of Radiological Health  
Department of Environmental Resources  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

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R. C. Arnold

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OCT 17 1979

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DATE	10/16/79	10/16/79	10/16/79			

### CHARTER FOR THE PANEL

The panel is hereby constituted with the following charter:

Objective: To review the radiation protection program of the Metropolitan Edison Company at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, as currently constituted and planned to support the decontamination and recovery of Unit 2. To determine whether the organization, management and planned program will be capable of supporting the recovery stages with exposures to plant workers and contractor personnel that will meet the requirements of the Commission's regulations and that will assure that occupational radiation exposures will be as low as is reasonably achievable.

Scope: The recovery operations at the TMI Nuclear Station will involve many activities and associated health physics problems that were not anticipated prior to the accident at TMI-2. Extensive decontamination of structures and systems and operations necessary to maintain the facility in a safe shutdown condition are accompanied by an unusual distribution of radioisotopes throughout the containment building, the fuel handling building and the auxiliary building. The particular spectrum of radionuclides encountered in these operations is unique to the occurrence at the station.

Deficiencies in the radiation protection program have previously been identified in the NUS Corporation study prior to the accident, in I&E inspections and their report of the accident, and in reports by the NRR TMI-2 Support Task Force. The Committee should become familiar with the plant programs, review appropriate reports and studies and should conduct meetings as necessary with the licensee, the NRC, and others as necessary in order to carry out its objective of reporting to the Director, NRR, on both the current capability and competence of the Met-Ed program and of recommendations for actions that may be needed in order that operations can be accomplished within NRC requirements.

The Committee should function so as to make its final report to the Director, NRR, no later than December 7, 1979.

Enclosure 1

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Special Panel on TMI Radiation Protection Program

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