



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

December 3, 1979

Mr. John P. Duffy
21 Georgetown Road
Colts Neck, NJ 07722

Dear Mr. Duffy:

Thank you for your letter of November 10, 1979. We agree that it is our responsibility to take steps to assure that the lessons learned at Three Mile Island are rapidly implemented.

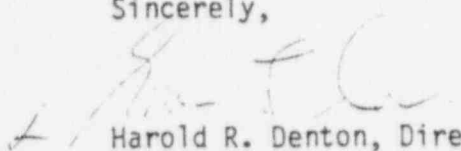
The Nuclear Regulatory Commission agrees with the President's Commission on the accident at Three Mile Island that a number of fundamental changes are necessary. Based on the results so far of NRC internal reviews of the accident, the NRC has generally found that the actions recommended by the President's Commission in the areas of human factors, operational safety, emergency planning, nuclear power plant design and siting, health effects, and public information are necessary and feasible. The NRC intends to implement changes in its own organization, practices and procedures and in its regulatory requirements for operating plants and new plants so as to conform with the recommendations of the President's Commission as soon as possible.

Actions already taken by the NRC with respect to operating reactors are fully compatible with most of the applicable technical recommendations of the President's Commission. Also, the NRC is presently considering a number of specific approaches to accomplish changes that would, in most areas, fully accomplish what are perceived to be the safety objectives of the recommendations. The NRC is also considering some changes that go beyond the recommendations of the President's Commission.

Four of the five Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners do not agree with the recommendation of the President's Commission to abandon the Commission form of regulation in favor of a single administrator. All the Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners disagree with the overall thrust of the President's Commission recommendations to lessen the role of the NRC in responding to emergencies and providing emergency information to the public. On the basis of the experience at Three Mile Island, the NRC is convinced that its role in nuclear emergencies is bound to be essential and central, and governmental planning should reflect that assessment. NRC is acting to improve its capability to carry out such a role.

Sincerely,

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Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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21x Georgetown Rd
Catskill, N.Y. 07722
10 Nov. 79

Secretary of the Commission
U.S. N.R.C.

ATTN: Docketing and Service Section

It is my opinion that the incident at Three Mile Island was a very unfortunate accident. The lessons learned have been carefully developed in the Commission Report. I believe it is now time for us to set priorities and take positive action to exploit this very critical and important technology. We cannot live and survive by walking away from issues that are critical to the future of the human race.

Nuclear energy is here and will continue to be with us for many decades to come. I believe it is our responsibility to take steps to assure that the lessons learned at Three Mile Island are rapidly implemented. This will serve the public involved.

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the corporate shareholders, many thousands
of workers and the Nation in the best
possible manner.

Only through the use of sound
technology and sensible public
attitudes will we be able to meet
our energy needs in the years to
come.

Sincerely yours,
John P. Duff

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