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March 24, 1997
6710-97-2120

Mr. Hubert J. Miller
USNRC Region 1 Administrator
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Subject: Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1)
DPR-50/Docket No. 50-289
Response to Item 5 of Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) 1-97-011 Actions
Regarding Inspection of the March 5, 1997 Full Participation Exercise

Dear Mr. Miller:

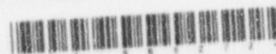
The referenced CAL identified a number of weaknesses in performance of the March 5, 1997 full participation exercise. As we stated in the public exit meeting on March 17, 1997, we agree with the NRC's assessment of the exercise, and we are committed to taking prompt corrective action including holding a remedial exercise. Regarding the March 17, 1997 public meeting, Item 5 in Confirmatory Action Letter 1-97-011 reads as follows:

5. Provide, at that meeting, and in writing, within 10 days subsequent to that meeting, your views on the significance of the exercise weaknesses and problems identified during the exercise, and why you believe that the corrective actions you have taken or will take to address the weaknesses will be effective.

The purpose of this letter is to provide a documented response to this specific item.

We concur with the NRC assessments of our March 5, 1997 exercise. Our demonstrated performance did not meet our own expectations and prompt corrective actions including a remedial exercise are warranted. We also believe that scenario planning, controller actions, and simulator usage issues limited the usefulness of this exercise to assess performance of the emergency response organization at TMI. As part of the corrective actions outlined in the March 17, 1997 public meeting, we are in the process of analyzing the root causes of the identified weaknesses and will develop and implement appropriate corrective actions.

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Mr. Hubert Miller

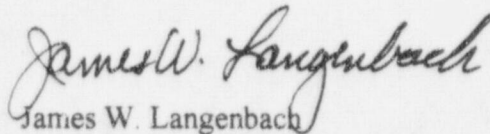
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This root cause analysis is being performed by an expert multi-organizational team which will address all the identified weaknesses. The analysis methodology used by this team (HPIP per NUREG CR 5455) has previously produced effective corrective actions and is expected to do so in this case.

We believe that the March 5, 1997 exercise performance was an anomaly and that our emergency preparedness remains at a high level, as evidenced by our performance in previous drills and exercises. In addition, the corrective actions developed to date, as well as those that may be developed as a result of the root cause analysis, will further strengthen our program.

Conduct of a remedial onsite exercise by May 15, 1997 will provide confirmation of that conclusion.

Sincerely,



James W. Langenbach
Vice President and Director, TMI

AWM

cc: Document Control Desk
TMI Senior Resident Inspector
Director, Division of Reactor Safety