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January 24, 1983  
NRC/TMI-83-007

Docket No. 50-320

Mr. B.K. Kanga  
Director, TMI-2  
P.O. Box 480  
Middletown, PA 17057

Dear Mr. Kanga:

Subject: Reactor Building Air Cooler Units

In response to your proposal to secure the reactor building air cooler fans (GPU letter 4410-83-L-0015, dated January 13, 1983), the NRC TMIPO staff has reviewed your evaluation of the safety significance of that proposed action. The NRC review included discussions with members of your technical staff and an evaluation of supporting documents and calculations. Based on our review, we concur that the proposal to secure the air coolers will benefit the reactor building cleanup and that the operation can be performed safely without creating a hazard to the environment, the workers, or to the components inside the reactor building.

An item not addressed in your letter, but one which was discussed with members of your radiological staff included the concern that reduced air circulation after the air coolers are secured may create a potential for localized concentrations of airborne activity. It was concluded that if this should occur, the limited worker stay time in the reactor building coupled with the respiratory protection requirements would minimize respiratory ingestion of airborne radioactive particles. Worker breathing zone area (BZA) air monitor data shall be reviewed following each entry to detect the existence of localized airborne radioactivity.

The potential for worker discomfort and loss of productivity as they relate to health and safety during the summer months without the air cooling system was not discussed in your submittal. Based on discussions with your staff, we understand that at the present time there is no intent to permanently disable the air cooling units and the units are expected to be available for use in the summer. If this premise should change during the course of the air cooler decontamination/servicing, we would require that you submit a proposal to the TMIPO which addresses your plan to ensure that workers could continue recovery operations inside the reactor building without impacting health and safety during hot weather months.

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January 24, 1983

Individual procedures/unit work instructions to implement actions addressed in your letter will be reviewed by the THIPO staff. Additionally, prior to opening reactor building airlocks for extended periods of time, a supplemental safety evaluation will be required to address safety implications and the impact of this action on the environment and on conditions inside the Unit 2 structures.

-5-

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