



Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

August 20, 1980

Dr. Bernard Snyder
Program Director
TMI Program Office
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Dr. Snyder:

The Department of Energy is conducting a Three Mile Island Information and Examination Program in cooperation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the General Public Utility Company (GPU), and the Electric Power Research Institute to gain information of potential value to the safety of all light water reactors. An additional objective is to gain information that will aid in the cleanup and decontamination of other civilian nuclear plants. As part of our program, we plan in the near future to conduct experiments at a Department of Energy site on several EPICOR-II resin liners (no more than six) which have been used by GPU to process water in the auxiliary building. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of our plans in this regard, and to request NRC cooperation.

One purpose of the resin experiments will be to aid in the development of technology for safely treating contaminated resins arising from nuclear power plant operations. A second purpose is to allow for samples and analyses to determine the radiation stability of these resins. We believe it is prudent to promptly conduct such analyses. Such testing has also been suggested by the NRC staff in recent correspondence to the Department. These experiments are in accord with the objectives of our Three Mile Island R&D program as authorized by the Congress.

In order to permit meaningful analyses, it is necessary that the dewatered resins be shipped without further solidification. We expect that GPU will be formally requesting the NRC to approve such shipments in the near future. We ask your support and favorable action on such a request, as we believe such shipments can be made with thorough and adequate protection of the public, and are needed to permit important tests which, in themselves, are designed to aid in the long term protection of public health and safety.

Sincerely,

Jerry D. Griffith
Acting Director
Office of Light Water Reactors
Office of Nuclear Energy

cc:
Robert Arnold, GPU
Cliff Jones, State of Pennsylvania

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