



Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20545

JUN 3 1981

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



Dear Dr. Snyder:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify our position with regard to research and development on the waste products that will result from the operation of the Submerged Demineralizer System (SDS) at Three Mile Island. The Department of Energy has proposed a waste immobilization research and development program in the fiscal year 1982 funding request to Congress. To implement this research and development program, the Department of Energy will acquire the SDS waste products that will contain approximately 500,000 curies of radioactivity currently dispersed in the reactor building sump and primary coolant system. The General Public Utility Company currently estimates that this dispersed radioactivity may be deposited on 15 to 20 zeolite liners.

The waste immobilization research and development program will include vitrification in addition to other promising approaches. Each experiment will be followed by confidence testing and an extended observation period. We are also considering utilizing some of these immobilized waste products in various research, development, and testing programs. The Department of Energy does not plan to return these products to the Three Mile Island site.

We hope this clarification is of interest and we will continue to keep you abreast of developments in the waste immobilization research and development program. If you have any questions, please contact me on 353-5006.

Sincerely,

Franklin E. Coffman, Acting Director  
Office of Coordination and  
Special Projects  
Office of Nuclear Energy

cc:  
W. Dircks, NRC  
R. Arnold, GPU  
A. Fremling, DOE Richland  
C. Williams, DOE Idaho

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