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September 7, 1981
NRC/TMI-81-051

MEMORANDUM FOR: Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Bernard J. Snyder, Program Director
TMI Program Office

FROM: Lake H. Barrett, Deputy Program Director
TMI Program Office

SUBJECT: NRC TMI PROGRAM OFFICE WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

Enclosed is the status report for the period of August 30 - September 5, 1981.
Major items included in this report are:

1. Liquid Effluent Releases.
2. NRC and EPA Environmental Data.
3. Radioactive Material and Radwaste Shipments.
4. Submerged Demineralizer System Status.
5. Unscheduled Entry into the Reactor Building.
6. EPICOR I Liner Shipments Complete.



Lake H. Barrett
Deputy Program Director
TMI Program Office

Enclosure: As stated

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OFFICE	URNAME	DATE					

Harold R. Denton
Bernard J. Snyder

-2-

September 7, 1981

cc w/encl:

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NRC TMI PROGRAM OFFICE WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

Week of August 30 - September 5, 1981

Plant Status

Core Cooling Mode: Heat transfer from the reactor coolant system (RCS) loops to reactor building ambient.

Available Core Cooling Modes: Decay heat removal systems. Long term cooling "B" (once through steam generator-B).

RCS Pressure Control Mode: Standby pressure control (SPC) system.

Backup Pressure Control Modes: Mini decay heat removal (MDHR) system.
Decay heat removal (DHR) system.

Major Parameters (as of 0400, September 4, 1981) (approximate values)

Average Incore Thermocouples: 117°F

Maximum Incore Thermocouple: 138°F

RCS Loop Temperatures:

	A	B
Hot Leg	115°F	118°F
Cold Leg (1)	73°F	74°F
(2)	74°F	74°F

RCS Pressure: 100 psig

Reactor Building: Temperature: 74°F
Water level: Elevation 290.96 ft. (8.46 ft. from floor)
via penetration 401 manometer
Pressure: -0.3 psig
Concentration: 1.2×10^{-5} uCi/ml Kr-85
(Sample taken 9/3/81)

Effluent and Environmental (Radiological) Information

1. Liquid effluents from the TMI site released to the Susquehanna River after processing, were made within the regulatory limits and in accordance with NRC requirements and City of Lancaster Agreement dated February 27, 1980.

During the period August 28, 1981 through September 4, 1981, the effluents contained no detectable radioactivity at the discharge point and individual effluent sources which originated within Unit 2 contained no detectable radioactivity.

2. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Data. The EPA announced on July 6, 1981 that, due to a new shipping procedure for Kr-85 samples to the laboratory, the results for the Kr-85 environmental monitoring stations around TMI will not always be available on a weekly basis. The NRC will report these results as they become available.

-- No radiation above normally occurring background levels was detected in any of the samples collected from the EPA's air and gamma rate networks during the period from August 26, 1981, through September 3, 1981.

3. NRC Environmental Data. Results from NRC monitoring of the environment around the TMI site were as follows:

-- The following are the NRC air sample analytical results for the onsite continuous air sampler:

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>I-131</u> <u>(uCi/cc)</u>	<u>Cs-137</u> <u>(uCi/cc)</u>
HP-283	August 26, 1981 - September 2, 1981	<9.3 E-14	<9.3 E-14

4. Licensee Radioactive Material and Radwaste Shipments.

- On Monday, August 31, 1981, a 40 ml Unit 2 reactor coolant sample was sent to Babcock and Wilcox (B&W), Lynchburg, Virginia.
- On Monday, August 31, 1981, a 250 ml Unit 2 reactor coolant sample was sent to EG&G, Idaho Incorporated, Idaho Falls, Idaho.
- On Tuesday, September 1, 1981, a damaged clothes dryer was shipped to Tri-State Laundries, Utica, New York.
- On Tuesday, September 1, 1981, 12 drums containing Unit 1 and Unit 2 contaminated laundry were shipped to Tri-State Laundries, Utica, New York.
- On Thursday, September 3, 1981, two Hittman steel liners (HN-100) containing Unit 1 solidified evaporator bottoms were shipped to U.S. Ecology, Richland, Washington.

Major Activities

1. Submerged Demineralizer System (SDS). Since August 10, 1981, the SDS has been in an outage for minor system modifications (e.g. filter replacement, re-routing sampling connections, and installing additional instrumentation). Additionally, the licensee has been evaluating possible operational problems (such as increased filter changeout frequency) that may be caused by the generation of microscopic pieces of zeolite ion exchange material (known as fines)

during the operation of the system. A trial period of processing intermediate level water has been delayed in order to replace air filters in the Fuel Handling Building Ventilation System. The trial period is now expected to begin during the week of September 6, 1981. Staging and processing of a small batch (approximately 15,000 gallons) of reactor building sump water is expected to begin shortly thereafter.

2. Unscheduled Entry into the Reactor Building. At 4:29 AM on Thursday, September 3, 1981, a 10 minute unscheduled entry was made into the Unit 2 reactor building. The entry was made to visually ascertain the water level on the bottom floor of the reactor building after the instrument which is normally used to measure the elevation of the water began giving erratic indications. One man entered the reactor building and visually verified through the open stairwell that there was no noticeable change in the reactor building water level. One closed circuit television camera was moved into position to continually view the water level through the open stairwell. It was subsequently determined that air leaks into the instrument (a manometer) were causing the incorrect level indications. The instrument was repaired and indicated that the water surface was at elevation 290.96 feet.
3. EPICOR I Liner Shipments Complete. On August 28, 1981, the last EPICOR I spent resin liner was shipped to the low level radioactive waste disposal facility in Barnwell, South Carolina. The EPICOR I system used organic demineralizers to process relatively low level liquid radioactive waste from Unit 1 during 1979 and early 1980. At the present time, all post-accident water processing demineralizers have been shipped off the island except for 49 EPICOR II prefilters. As discussed in the preceding weekly status report, the DOE will take the 49 EPICOR II prefilters off the island for research and development purposes and for eventual final disposition. The 49 remaining liners will be shipped off site as soon as preparations for their transfer to shipping casks are complete. It is not expected that the EPICOR II liners will be shipped before early 1982.

Past Meetings

1. On Tuesday, September 1, 1981, the Citizen's Advisory Panel for the decontamination of TMI Unit 2 held a public meeting at the Holiday Inn in Harrisburg. The Chairman of the Panel, John Minnick, Dauphin County Commissioner, announced four new panel members recently appointed by the NRC. They are General Dewitt Smith, Director of PEMA; Neil Wald, Professor at the University of Pittsburg; Tom Smithgall, a local citizen and Elizabeth Marshall, Mayor of York. The meeting was then opened up to members of the public for receiving proposals to resolve the financial impasse that is delaying the cleanup of Unit 2.

Representative Allen Ertel introduced his Nuclear Power Plant Property Damage Insurance Act of 1981, which has been assigned to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and Interior and Nuclear Affairs. It proposes (1) establishing a government insurance corporation, (2) establishing a nuclear property insurance fund, with initial financing by the U.S. Treasury, which GPU would be responsible for repaying, (3) premiums to the insurance corporation from nuclear utilities of at least \$150 million a year until a reserve of \$750 million has been established. The corporation would be authorized to provide up to \$2 billion in insurance coverage for any single nuclear accident, (4) the insurance corporation would pay 75 percent of the uninsured costs incurred by GPU for TMI Unit 2 cleanup. GPU would repay 50 percent of this amount over an extended period of time, and (5) when the cleanup is completed, the government insurance corporation would be converted to a mutual insurance company with the insured utilities as the owners.

Other proposals were also introduced by designated representatives, which are summarized as follows.

The Thornburgh Proposal is a cost-sharing arrangement for the cleanup that (1) 25 percent of \$760 million in estimated unfunded cleanup costs would be contributed by nuclear utilities, manufacturers and suppliers. This industry sharing would amount to an average of \$31.7 million a year for six years, (2) 25 percent, or another \$31.7 million a year for six years, would be contributed by the federal government in the form of research and development grants, (3) 32 percent of the unfunded cleanup costs or \$245 million would be contributed by GPU, (4) Pennsylvania's government would contribute 4 percent or \$5 million annually, and New Jersey's government would be asked to contribute 2 percent or \$2.5 million-a-year, and (5) GPU would devote a further 12 percent sharing, by committing the remaining \$90 million in unexpended insurance coverage to the cleanup.

Senator Spector's Bill has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs. It is similar to the Ertel Bill except (1) it does not provide the proposed National Nuclear Property Insurance Corporation with \$100 million in "up-front" Treasury financing, and (2) it would not require GPU to repay 50 percent of the cleanup funds provided through the insurance corporation.

Senator Heinz has announced that he intends to introduce a bill that would (1) establish an insurance fund financed by nuclear utilities under the supervision of an existing federal agency, and (2) provide 75 percent of the funds for the uninsured portion of the Unit 2 cleanup and require GPU to repay 50 percent of those funds over an extended period of time. Senator Heinz has also agreed to introduce any necessary legislation to Congress that may be necessary to implement the Thornburgh proposal.

After all the proposals were introduced, GPU Vice President for Planning, Bernard Cherry, stated that GPU is optimistic that the financial obstacles can be satisfactorily resolved later this year or early next year. GPU has organized a core of people working in Washington to line up the shared-cost financial support it is seeking. There will be a meeting in Kansas City on September 10, 1981, sponsored by Edison Electric Institute, which plans to discuss the means by which member companies would help finance the cleanup costs.

In addition to the above, a representative of the PaPUC summarized that the Commission's position on cleanup funding should not be the sole responsibility of the GPU ratepayers.

The next two Panel meetings are presently scheduled for October 21 and November 16, 1981. A time and place has not yet been arranged.

2. On Wednesday, September 2, 1981, Lake Barrett addressed the York Rotary Club and gave an update on the decontamination and cleanup efforts at Unit 2 and discussed the status of Unit 1.
3. On Thursday, September 3, 1981, Lake Barrett addressed the Middletown Rotary Club and gave an update on the decontamination and cleanup efforts at Unit 2, discussed safety improvements made to Unit 1 and explained the Unit 1 administrative process currently underway to decide if the unit can be restarted.