Docket No. 50-320

Mr. Herman Dieckamp, President
General Public Utilities Corporation
100 Interpace Parkway
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Mr. R. C. Arnold
Senior Vice President
Metropolitan Edison Company
100 Interpace Parkway
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Dear Mr. Dieckamp and Mr. Arnold:

In Mr. Dieckamp's letter to Chairman Ahearne on March 4, 1980 he indicated that Metropolitan Edison will, in the near future, be requesting NRC approval to install and operate a specific system to decontaminate the water in the TMI-2 containment building.


Our May 16 letter is not to be interpreted as approval of the Submerged Demineralizer System as the preferred technique for decontaminating the water in the Containment Building. Approval of any system will be preceded by NRC's evaluation of the environmental impacts of alternate techniques, as given in our final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), consistent with the Commission's policy on this matter, as enunciated in the November 21, 1979 Statement of Policy and Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (44 F.R. 67738). As the Commission stated, in keeping with the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act, a PEIS will be prepared in which the Commission will focus on environmental issues and alternatives before commitments to specific cleanup choices are made. The draft PEIS which is currently under preparation will serve to engage the public in the Commission's decision-making process.

Since Metropolitan Edison Company has not received NRC approval for use of its proposed system for cleanup of the contaminated water in the Metropolitan Edison Company's reactor building, purchase and installation of any portions of the system are at its own risk. Furthermore, the assumption by Metropolitan Edison Company that solid waste generated during operation of a cleanup system can all be disposed of in a commercial shallow land burial system is not valid. It is apparent that these wastes will be more like high-level wastes than material that is normally disposed of by shallow land burial. Further guidance will be provided by NRC as the questions of waste disposal are examined in the PEIS environmental reviews. Accordingly, it is very important that Metropolitan Edison Company
consider appropriate handling for these highly active wastes so as not to foreclose potential future options for treatment to improve their form for long-term off-site storage or disposal.

In the interim until a system is approved by NRC, we consider it important that Metropolitan Edison Company promptly complete their contingency plan, which is being developed, to transfer the untreated water from the containment building to suitably shielded on-site tanks, should the need arise. Please advise within two weeks when we may expect this contingency plan for our review.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Denton
Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See Service Distribution List
Mr. G. K. Hovey
Director, Unit 2
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

Mr. J. J. Barton
Manager, Site Operations, Unit 2
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

Mr. R. W. Heward
Manager, Radiological Control, Unit 2
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

Mr. B. Elam
Manager, Plant Engineering, Unit 2
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

Mr. R. F. Wilson
Director, Technical Functions
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

Mr. L. W. Harding
Supervisor of Licensing
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

Mr. E. G. Wallace
Licensing Manager
GPU Service Corporation
100, Interpace Parkway
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Mr. I. R. Finfrock, Jr.
Jersey Central Power & Light Company
Madison Avenue at Punch Bowl Road
Morristown, NJ 07950

Mr. R. W. Conrad
Pennsylvania Electric Company
1007 Broad Street
Johnstown, PA 15907

J. B. Lieberman, Esquire
Berlock, Israel, Lieberman
26 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

George F. Trowbridge, Esquire
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Ms. Mary V. Southard, Chairperson
Citizens for a Safe Environment
P. O. Box 405
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dr. Walter H. Jordan
881 W. Outer Drive
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Dr. Linda W. Little
5050 Hermitage Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Karin W. Carter, Esquire
505 Executive House
P. O. Box 2357
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Honorable Mark Cohen
512 E-3 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Ellyn Weiss, Esquire
Sheldon, Harmon, Roisman & Weiss
1725 I Street, N.W., Suite 506
Washington, DC 20006

Mr. Steven C. Sholly
304 S. Market Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Mr. Thomas Gerusky
Bureau of Radiation Protection
P. O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Mr. Marvin I. Lewis
6504 Bradford Terrace
Philadelphia, PA 19149

Ms. Jane Lee
R. D. 3, Box 3521
Etters, PA 17319
Walter W. Cohen, Consumer Advocate
Department of Justice
Strawberry Square, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17127

Robert L. Knupp, Esquire
Assistant Solicitor
Knupp and Andrews
P. O. Box P
407 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17108

John E. Hinnich, Chairperson
Dauphin Co. Board of Commissioners
Dauphin County Courthouse
Front and Market Streets
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Robert Q. Pollard
Chesapeake Energy Alliance
609 Montpelier Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Chauncey Kepford
Judith H. Johnsrud
Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power
433 Orlando Avenue
State College, PA 16801

Ms. Frieda Berryhill, Chairperson
Coalition for Nuclear Power Plant Postponement
2610 Grendon Drive
Wilmington, DE 19808

Holly S. Keck
Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York
245 W. Philadelphia Street
York, PA 17404

John Levin, Esquire
Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission
P. O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Jordon D. Cunningham, Esquire
Fox, Farr and Cunningham
2320 N. Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Ms. Kathy McCaughin
Three Mile Island Alert, Inc.
23 South 21st Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Ms. Marjorie H. Aamodt
R. D. #5
Coatesville, PA 19320

Ms. Karen Sheldon
Sheldon, Harmon, Roisman & Weiss
1725 I Street, N.W., Suite 506
Washington, DC 20006

Earl B. Hoffman
Dauphin County Commissioner
Dauphin County Courthouse
Front and Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Government Publications Section
State of Library of Pennsylvania
Box 1601 Education Building
Harrisburg, PA 17127

Dr. Edward O. Swartz
Board of Supervisors
Londonderry Township
RFD #1 Geyers Church Road
Middletown, PA 17057

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III Office
ATTN: EIS COORDINATOR
Curtis Building (Sixth Floor)
6th and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dauphin County Office Emergency Preparedness
Court House, Room 7
Front and Market Streets
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Department of Environmental Resources
ATTN: Director, Office of Radiological Health
P. O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105
Governor's Office of State
Planning and Development
ATTN: Coordinator, Pennsylvania Clearinghouse
P. O. Box 1323
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Mrs. Rhoda D. Carr
1402 Marene Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Mr. Richard Roberts
The Patriot
812 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Mr. Robert B. Borsum
Babcock & Wilcox
Nuclear Power Generation Division
Suite 420, 7735 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20014

Ivan W. Smith, Esquire
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Panel
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Docketing and Service Section
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555