

October 3, 1979

SECT-79-561

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

For: The Commissioners

From: Harold N. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Thru: Executive Director for Operations *Original signed by E. G. Case 11/5/79*

Subject: USE OF EPICOR-II FOR PROCESSING TH1-2 CONTAMINATED WATER

Purpose: To obtain Commission approval for use of EPICOR-II

Discussion: As a result of the Commission's May 25, 1979, statement concerning the use of EPICOR-II for the processing of contaminated auxiliary building water at Three Mile Island, Unit 2, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by the staff and issued for public comment on August 20, 1979. A copy of the Federal Register Notice issuing the EA for a thirty-day public comment period is enclosed as Enclosure 1.

To date, forty letters containing comments have been received. Thirty-six of these did not contain comments which were technically substantive in nature but were indications of opinion concerning whether or not the EPICOR system should be operated. Of these, thirty-five were against its use and one in favor of its use. Of the remaining four, the Susquehanna Valley Alliance, the City of Lancaster and two professors from Franklin and Marshall College had many comments and were opposed to the processing of water. The remaining commentor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, was in favor of the use of EPICOR-II. These four sets of comments are included as Enclosure 2.

The staff has evaluated all comments and has prepared a discussion of public comments and resulting staff recommendations on the use of EPICOR-II which is presented in Enclosure 3. Those comments that were considered to be significant to the technical content or for clarification of the EA have been incorporated. A revised EA is included as Enclosure 4.

After review of the comments received, it remains our conclusion that operation of the EPICOR-II system for the processing of contaminated waste water from the TH1-2 auxiliary building and from the additional storage provided by the tank farm in the fuel handling building will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. We conclude that the total occupational exposure resulting from processing of the water will be less than five mrem-yr, and that the maximum dose to any individual off-site

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will be much less than the one area previously estimated because of the substantial decay of the volatile fission products. Therefore, we believe that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared, and that pursuant to 10 CFR 51.5(c), issuance of a negative declaration to that effect is appropriate.

Therefore, since the requirements of the Commission's May 25, 1979, Statement concerning the use of EPICOR-II have been met, we recommend that the use of EPICOR-II be authorized. Disposition of the processed water will require a subsequent EA as required by the May 25, 1979, Statement. The staff will advise the Commission of the schedule for the EA as soon as the licensee provides his evaluation and proposal for disposition of the processed water.

Concerning the disposition of solid wastes generated by the use of EPICOR, we plan on authorizing shipment of vacuum dewatered wastes, utilizing careful control to assure that all free water is removed from the contaminated resins, until such time that a resin solidification system can be designed and installed. Following that, solid waste generated by the process of decontamination of liquid waste would be further encased in a solid matrix to provide additional assurance of no free water.

Original Signed by  
K. E. Denton

10/3/79

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

## Enclosures:

1. Federal Register Notice
2. Comment Letters
3. Discussion of Public Comments
4. Revised Environmental Assessment

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APPROVED BY	D/MSR Support RWO/mtf/jm	FLD	DD/MRR EJG	D/MRR HDenton	EDD
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