

September 13, 1982

SECY-82-346A

For: The Commissioners

From: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Subject: TMI-1 RESTART - STATUS OF STAFF EFFORT ON
PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS

Purpose: To inform the Commission concerning the current status
of the staff's effort regarding psychological stress
associated with TMI-1 restart.

Discussion: In SECY-82-92, SECY-82-240, and SECY-82-346 the staff
informed the Commission of its activities regarding the
TMI-1 restart psychological stress issue raised by the
U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in its judgment.
This SECY updates information previously provided.

Re-analysis of their respective data collected in the TMI
area following the TMI-2 accident is being continued by
Drs. Baum (Uniform Services University of the Health Sciences),
Bromet (University of Pittsburgh), and Houts (The Milton S.
Hershey Medical Center). Dr. George Warheit (University of
Florida and San Diego State University) is reviewing the
psychological stress information developed for the President's
Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island. It is
anticipated that these re-analyses will be completed about
mid-October and could provide the basis for a staff paper
treating the accident impacts as an upper bound of psychological
impacts which might result from restart of TMI-1. Efforts by
ORNL to treat possible secondary (community) impacts are
essentially complete.

The proposed study to determine current psychological
characteristics of the population in the vicinity of TMI and
to infer the possible severity of psychological health effects
resulting from restart of TMI-1 has not progressed. In late
August, NRC withdrew its request to ORNL for clearance of the

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of the survey instrument pending NIMH review of the Warheit proposal. In the meantime, Dr. Warheit, after discussions with NIMH, concluded that the materials supporting the proposed study would have to be expanded. While the survey instrument remains essentially unchanged the sample size has been increased and two follow-up interviews on the same sample have been proposed. These modifications have increased the estimated cost threefold.

*In early August the staff submitted a draft Memorandum of Understanding between NIMH and NRC to NIMH for review. On August 24, 1982 the Deputy Director of NIMH informed the staff that he was not prepared to proceed with the Memorandum of Understanding "until the views of the Department of Justice and the views of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the appropriateness of responding to the U.S. Court of Appeals request are better understood." The staff has requested OGC (NRC) to arrange a meeting between Justice, NIMH and NRC. Dr. Warheit is submitting his study proposal directly to NRC pending clarification of future involvement of NIMH.



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