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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY HALL 50 HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17101

MAYOR

December 12, 1983

Chairman Nunzio Palladino U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D. C. 20555

50-289 Restart

Dear Chairman Palladino:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has set a closed session for December 19 on the matter of the start-up of Three Mile Island's Unit 1. The need for and purpose behind having a meeting closed to the public and media leads us to the worst in speculating reasons for such.

The company has now been cited for a wide range of previously "impossible" charges, ranging from falsification of emission records to examination cheating by control room operators. The firm has been prosecuted for being "less than honest" about the information they provided during the unprecedented and dangerous 1979 accident. Considerable evidence of incompetence, misdeed and flagrant disregard for operator requirements affecting public safety and plant operations has been provided in various forums.

The fact the owners of TMI still have a license to own and are in a position to be allowed to operate, once again, a nuclear power plant in this nation and area is an indictment of the nuclear regulatory system and a clear dismissal of all the safeguards intended in Federal law regarding the nuclear industry and nuclear plants. There apparently is no sanction for the worst of violations and conduct.

If, after an internally prescribed period of "penance," the owners of TMI are permitted to return to business-as-usual, the public's trust and confidence in the NRC most assuredly will be destroyed and the suspicion of ultimate influence over the regulators by those presumably being regulated will be confirmed.

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In the midst of all this, a closed Joor meeting of the NRC serves no public purpose. It is certainly the business of this nation and this area to know what is occurring by the decision-making body considering the Unit 1 restart question and legal remedy may exist to invalidate subsequently announced actions of the NRC from such secretive pursuits.

We urge that you do whatever you can to alter the present course of the NRC regarding the Unit 1 restart and the planned closed meeting regarding such.

With warmest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

STEPHĚN R. REED

Mayor

SRR/cmk