

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 17, 1983

Honorable Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On July 29, 1983, I wrote you urging that the Commission reopen the record and hold hearings on the management competence and integrity of General Public Utilities (GPU) and resolve all doubts before restart of the No. 1 reactor at Three Mile Island (TMI) is even considered.

Several recent developments reinforce my conviction. On September 13, 1983, the NRC Office of Investigations charged that GPU circumvented proper procedures and adopted techniques of questionable safety with regard to the clean-up of TMI Unit 2. On October 7, 1983, the Commission issued NUREG-1020, in which the NRC staff enumerated seven areas related to management that it said required further investigation before it could revalidate its favorable 1980 decision on GPU management competence and integrity. On November 7, 1983, a federal grand jury charged a subsidiary of GPU with criminal misconduct in its operation of TMI.

In light of these developments and continuing ambiguities in the Commission's position regarding what additional actions need to be taken prior to a restart decision, I renew my request that public hearings on management be reopened as to all these matters. In addition to the Hartman allegations, the record should be reopened with respect to the other six management issues enumerated in NUREG-1020, the material false statements concerning operator cheating, and the management implications of both operator cheating and GPU's failure to adhere to NRC quality assurance requirements in the course of the clean-up of TMI Unit-2. The hearings must consider the extent to which GPU and/or Met Ed managers knew of the falsification of leak rate information, and the manner in which GPU has handled the issue since the accident.

Accordingly, I ask that you give appropriate assurances that the Commission will not allow restart of TMI-1 until the hearing process addressing all of the above stated management issues is complete, and all questions surrounding GPU's management competence and integrity are fully resolved.

It has also come to my attention that on Monday, November 28, 1983, the NRC will hold a meeting during which GPU will present its current proposal for organization of TMI-1 management. It is my understanding that of the parties to the TMI-1 restart proceeding, only GPU will be permitted to make a presentation. I request that the NRC allow all other parties the opportunity to comment on the proposal in an appearance before the Commission.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS:ml:jk