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NRC STAFF APPROVES POWER INCREASE  
FOR FERMI-2 NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has approved Detroit Edison Company's application to operate its Fermi-2 nuclear power plant at a power level of 3,430 megawatts thermal, up from a previously-authorized power level of 3,293 megawatts thermal. The increase permits the generation of an additional 46 megawatts of electricity.

The Detroit Edison Company application is the first approved by the NRC staff under a generic power uprate program submitted by General Electric Company in late 1990 and approved by the staff in September 1991 and July 1992.

The NRC staff estimates that, if all eligible utilities took advantage of the opportunity to uprate power, an additional 1,000 megawatts of electricity generating capacity could be made available. The power uprates would authorize power increases from currently approved levels to power levels closer to the design power rating.

Currently, as part of the General Electric generic program, the NRC staff is reviewing two more applications to increase authorized power levels--from Pennsylvania Power and Light Company for its Susquehanna nuclear power plant and from the New York Power Authority for its FitzPatrick nuclear power plant.

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