

March 8, 1978

Docket No. 50-289

Metropolitan Edison Company
ATTN: Mr. J. G. Herbein
Vice President
P. O. Box 542
Reading, Pennsylvania 19603

Gentlemen:

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By letter dated December 2, 1977, we authorized certain modifications to the interim surveillance program employed at Three Mile Island, Unit No. 1 to assure the continued integrity of the shafts of the decay heat removal pumps. One of the provisions of this modified program was that vibration measurements and the ultrasonic inspection of the shaft would be performed at the conclusion of a run when the accumulated operating time of the pump since the last inspection in any mode (flow rate \geq 550 gpm) exceeded one hour. This limit was based on the suggested limit contained in your letter of October 27, 1977 and the fact that the pump manufacturer does not recommend flows of less than 550 gpm for continuous operation.

In your letter of February 10, 1978, you note several problems associated with the present one hour criterion for flow rates \geq 550 gpm, that have been discovered in the course of performing these tests. One problem arises from the need for extended pump operation to determine bearing temperatures during inservice testing. Another problem relates to the need to perform inservice testing on a monthly schedule while the vibration measurements and ultrasonic inspection are only required quarterly. In order to reduce the number of times that the pump must be run solely to obtain vibration measurements and perform ultrasonic inspection, you have requested that the accumulated running time criteria for flow rates \geq 550 gpm be increased from one hour to three hours.

We have reviewed your request, and on the basis of the fact that the pump manufacturer has recommended against continuous operation at flow rates less than 550 gpm, but has no such reservations against operation at flow rates \geq 550 gpm, we conclude that the requested change is acceptable. Indeed, our previous limits allowed operation in excess of three hours provided it was part of a continuous run.

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Accordingly, this is to advise you that the schedule for performing vibration measurements and ultrasonic testing of the decay heat removal pumps, as set forth in our letter of December 7, 1977, may be modified so that such tests and inspections need be made only when the accumulated operating time at flow rates \geq 550 gpm since the preceding test and inspection exceeds three hours. The test schedule applicable to operation with flow rates less than 550 gpm, however, remains unchanged.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Reid, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

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DATE	3/6/78	3/8/78	3/8/78		

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