

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
631 PARK AVENUE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

March 25, 1975

Metropolitan Edison Company
Attention: Mr. J. G. Miller
Vice President

Docket No. 50-320

PO Box 542
Reading, Pennsylvania 19603

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is IE Bulletin No. 75-04 which is forwarded to you for information. No action is required of you in response to this Bulletin.

Should you have questions regarding this Bulletin, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Callan
for James P. O'Reilly
Director

Enclosure:
IE Bulletin No. 75-04

cc: R. L. Wayne, QA Manager, Design & Construction
T. M. Crimmins, Jr., Safety & Licensing Manager
R. W. Heward, Jr., Project Manager
W. A. Verrochi, Vice President, Design & Construction
Gerald Charnoff, Esquire
Mary V. Southard, Chairman, Citizens for a Safe Environment

bcc:
IE Files
DR Central Files
PDR
Local PDR
REG:I Reading Room
OGC
State of Pennsylvania



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Q 56-180

CABLE FIRE AT BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR POWER STATION

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES:

Preliminary information from Tennessee Valley Authority regarding a fire which occurred on March 22, 1975, at their Browns Ferry site near Athens, Alabama, indicates that the fire was started as a result of construction activities. The fire resulted in the shutdown of two operating nuclear plants and made several safety systems inoperative, including systems normally used for decay heat removal during shutdown. The workmen were engaged in construction activities on a third unit not yet licensed for operation by NRC.

Initial information indicates that during the installation and testing of cable through-wall penetrations an open flame ignited a flammable material used in the penetration seals.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY LICENSEES:

The following actions are requested of selected Licensees with operating power reactor facilities and major construction activities at a common site:

1. Review your overall procedures and system for controlling construction activities that interface with reactor operating activities, with particular attention to the installation and testing of seals for electrical cables between compartments of the reactor building, e.g., control room to cable spreading room.
2. Review the design of floor and wall penetration seals, with particular attention to the flammability of materials.
3. Evaluate your procedures for the control of ignition sources which may be used for leak testing or other purposes in areas containing flammable materials.
4. Report to this office, in writing within 20 days of the date of this Bulletin, the results of your reviews or evaluations regarding items 1 through 3 above.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY LICENSEES MAY BE REVISED:

The actions requested of Licensees above may be revised as additional details of the Browns Ferry occurrence are available and evaluated by the NRC.