



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

NOV 8 1973

B. H. Grier, Assistant Director
for Construction & Operation, RO

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE - POWER REACTORS REPORT TITLED
"CRANE FAILURES"

There are some important discrepancies in the circumstances of a polar crane failure at Indian Point Unit 3 in January 1971. This crane failure is described in section 2.1 of the attached proposed Construction Experience - Power Reactors report. A draft of this report was reviewed by you between 9/17/73 and 9/24/73. Your review copy indicated the deletion of the statement that movement of the hoist house and operators cabin exerted considerable braking action in restraining the descent of the reactor vessel and the shipping sled.

On 10/5/73, this report was sent to Mr. John H. Coulch of Consolidated Edison Co. of New York for a critical review for factual accuracy of this section of the report. His account of the incident is technically different from previous AEC information. Specifically these discrepancies are:

1. Was hoisting originally terminated to investigate an unexplained noise or because the hoist motor in the crane overheated?
2. Was the crane overloaded? Documentation indicates a crane capacity of 175 tons (safety factor of 3) to lift a 450 ton load. Mr. Coulch claims the crane was not overloaded. It is also believed that the repaired crane was proof tested by lifting the same load.
3. Did the load actually leave the temporary flooring and consequently was the crane bearing the entire load prior to failure?
4. Was the slow descent of the load caused by dragging the operators cabin or by friction of the cranes lifting mechanism.

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It is important to maintain factual accuracy in these reports and we would appreciate your assistance in clarifying these apparent discrepancies. We have also attached copies of the RCEs and the background documentation for this report for your assistance.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dudley Thompson for".

Dudley Thompson, Assistant Director
for Information Processing
Office of Operations Evaluation
Directorate of Regulatory Operations

Attachments:
As stated