



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE  
REGION I  
970 BROAD STREET  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

201 645-3942

January 12, 1971

50-286

J. P. O'Reilly, Chief, Reactor Inspection and Enforcement Branch, Division of Compliance, HQ

INQUIRY MEMORANDUM

CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY, INDIAN POINT 3, 286/71-A  
LOWERING OF THE REACTOR VESSEL FOLLOWING INDICATIONS OF A LIFTING CABLE FAILURE DURING PLANNED UPENDING OF THE REACTOR VESSEL

Mr. J. A. Corcoran, Site Superintendent, Con Ed, telephoned Division of Compliance, Region I, on January 12, 1971, to report that the reactor vessel had been lowered from an up-right position when a lifting cable began to part. The preliminary information is as follows:

1. The reactor vessel and skid had been uplifted into an up-right position in preparation to lifting the reactor vessel free of the skid and positioning the reactor vessel in the reactor vessel cavity.
2. While the reactor vessel was in the up-right position, and just prior to beginning the lift to free the reactor vessel from the skid, a lifting cable was observed to be parting.
3. The crane operator observed the cable parting and immediately began to lower the reactor vessel and skid.
4. When the skid and reactor vessel were at an incline and the uplifted end was approximately three to four feet from the horizontal position, the reactor vessel and skid were lowered onto the steel plating covering the concrete floor at a "faster than intended" rate.
5. The cable had not fully parted, but several strands had broken by the time the reactor vessel came to rest in the horizontal position.
6. Preliminary visual inspection indicated no apparent damage to the reactor vessel, the steel plating covering the floor, or other indications of concern to Con Ed.
7. Westinghouse and Combustion Engineering will prepare a procedure for inspection. Con Ed will evaluate and approve this procedure prior to inspection by designated, qualified personnel.

8111180126 710112  
PDR ADOCK 05000286  
G PDR

8. The polar crane was being operated by a construction trade journeyman electrician from Local 501.
9. The lift was made in the reactor building near the reactor vessel cavity.
10. No load testing had been performed on the polar crane prior to the lift. Data of other testing is being assembled by Con Ed.
11. Prior to this incident, two 305 ton steam generators had been sited using this crane.
12. The total weight of the lift when the incident occurred was approximately 441 tons.
13. Additional information will be furnished by Region I as it becomes available.

*for* *B. M. Hunicutt*  
E. M. Howard  
Senior Reactor Inspector

cc: E. G. Case, DRS (3)  
P. A. Morris, DRL  
R. S. Boyd, DRL (2)  
R. C. DeYoung, DRL (2)  
D. J. Skovholt, DRL (3)  
P. W. Howe, DRL (2)  
A. Giambusso, CO  
L. Kornblith, Jr., CO  
R. H. Engelken, CO  
Regional Directors, CO  
REG File ✓

E. M. Howard  
O:I

RE: CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY - INDIAN POINT NO. 3,  
CO REPORT NO. 286/70-6

A review of the subject report prompts the following comments:

1. Several important deficiencies were identified during the inspection; however, the report does not provide any information concerning the licensee's position regarding the deficiencies or if they were discussed.
2. A formal exit interview was not held with licensee management.

Your attention is invited to PI 0700 for guidance concerning the issuance of CDN's.

J. P. O'Reilly

bcc: F. Nolan

1/6/71

50-286  
Insp

OFFICE ▶	CO <i>FM</i>	CO <i>R</i>				
SURNAME ▶	<i>FNolan:ee</i>	<i>JPOReilly</i>				
DATE ▶	<i>1/6/71</i>					