

March 30, 1979

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Washington, D. C. 20555

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In the Matter of Metropolitan Edison Company, et al.
(Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2)
Docket No. 50-320

Gentlemen:

SAND77-1927 entitled, "Transport of Radionuclides in Urban Environs: Working Draft Assessment" (WDA) is a preliminary report in the development by NRC of a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) on transportation of radionuclides in urban environs. The general objectives of the GEIS are (1) to identify any unacceptable risk or hazard to public health and safety and (2) to identify promising alternatives whereby current levels of safety may be improved further. The study is not intended, by itself, to support any specific rulemaking action or other regulatory activity.

Among the topics discussed in the WDA are: (1) sabotage of spent fuel casks, discussed in Chapter 6, resulting in severe consequences (thousands of death, billions of dollars in damages) and (2) consequences of severe accidents in urban areas resulting in costs exceeding \$560 million.

Commission Information Reports, SECY-78-311,*/ dated June 14, 1978 and SECY-78-311A dated November 9, 1978 are Information Reports which indicate to the Commission the Staff's view of the impact of the WDA on current regulatory policy. In these Commission papers, the NRC Staff

*/ Only the unclassified portions of SECY-78-311A will be forwarded. These documents are being forwarded under separate cover.

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has recommended that no immediate regulatory action is necessary to protect spent fuel shipment at this time.

Copies of the identified documents have been furnished separately to all Licensing and Appeal Board Panel Members for their use.

More recently, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff has become aware of a document which contains information potentially relevant to the issue of sabotage of spent nuclear fuel. The document is classified as national security information and is in draft form. It is uncertain that a final version will ever be published.

A copy of the transmittal memorandum, ^{**/} unclassified, is attached for the information of the Board and the parties.

Sincerely,

Henry J. McGurran
Counsel for NRC Staff

cc: Service List

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^{**/} Memorandum of January 22, 1979 from T. F. Carter, Jr. to Director and Chief Counsel, Hearing Division, OELD.

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