



METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY SUBSIDIARY OF GENERAL PUBLIC UTILITIES CORPORATION

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April 4, 1977
GQL 0446

Mr. J. P. O'Reilly, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection & Enforcement
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Sir:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 2 (TMI-2)
License No. CPPR-66
Docket No. 50-320
Reactor Building Air Cooling Units

On March 4, 1977, Mr. L. Narrow of your office was verbally notified of a situation which Metropolitan Edison Company considered to be reportable in accordance with the requirements of 10CFR50.55(e). This letter constitutes the required thirty-day follow-up letter.

Description

A field examination of the five Reactor Building Air Cooling Units revealed that unusual force was necessary to manually open (and maintain in an open position) the inlet dampers (gravity type backdraft dampers). It should be noted that these fan coil units are installed but not energized. The effect of fan forces in actuating the dampers has not been tested. It appears that the inlet damper counterweights are not properly oriented or adjusted.

Analysis of Safety Implications

The improper functioning of the dampers could result in excessive pressure losses internal to the fan coolers. This condition might result in insufficient reactor building emergency air cooling which could lead to higher containment pressures and temperatures following a design basis loss of coolant or steam line break accident. However, since these fans are used for normal Reactor Building cooling, failure of the dampers to open would have been readily apparent when the fans were energized during startup and test phases of construction and subsequently corrected before the plant became operational. For this reason, we believe that there would have been no adverse effect on the health or safety of the public or plant staff.

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Corrective Action

The proper location and orientation of the inlet damper counterweight is being discussed with the vendor, American Air Filter Company. The damper assemblies will be adjusted as required and subsequently tested for proper operation. Corrections will be made prior to Hot Functional Testing presently scheduled for June, 1977.

Very truly yours,



R. C. Arnold
Vice President

cc: Dr. Ernst Volgenau, Director
Office of Inspection & Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555