

50-274

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LWR #4 File  
S. Varga  
H. Silver

JUL 11 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: D. B. Vassallo, Assistant Director  
for Light Water Reactors, DPM

FROM: H. Silver, Project Manager, Light Water  
Reactors Branch No. 4, DPM

THRU: S. A. Varga, Chief, Light Water Reactors  
Branch No. 4, DPM

SUBJECT: ITEMS FOR TMI-2 HEARING BOARD

The following items have arisen lately on TMI-2 which may be of interest to the hearing board. (The appeal board is still convened.)

1. Purge Valve Operability

In response to concerns raised by the Containment Systems Branch, the Mechanical Engineering Branch has identified certain requests for additional information regarding operability of the containment purge valves. These requests deal with confirmatory information to more completely document the ability of the containment purge valves to close if they are in use at the time of a LOCA. Present technical specifications restrict the time these valves may be open with the reactor critical to 90 hours per year. Responses to our requests are not expected to raise any issues which represent significant safety problems.

2. Burnable Poison Rod/Orifice Rod Assemblies

At another operating B&W reactor, it was found that two burnable poison rod assemblies (BPRA) had been ejected from the core and pieces of several components had been carried into the steam generator inlet plenums. The reactor was safely shutdown and no damage was done which represented a significant safety issue.

B&W concluded that this problem was due to wear in the BPRA ball-lock coupling caused by hydraulic lifting of the BPRA during operation with all four reactor coolant pumps. B&W proposed installation of a BPRA retainer which would provide positive holddown against

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all lift forces, and Met Ed has stated their intention to install this device on all BPRA's. B&W has submitted B&W-1496, BPRA Retainer Design Report, for our approval, but our review is not yet complete.

The same ball-lock device is also employed on orifice rod assemblies (ORA) in B&W reactors. During the inspection of these devices at another B&W reactor, wear similar to that on the BPRA's was observed. B&W has concluded that for some plants, including TMI-2, the ORA's should be removed. This will require revised thermal-hydraulic analyses for the core, but based on such analysis already completed for other reactors, these are expected to be acceptable. These analyses for TMI-2 have recently been submitted and will be reviewed and approved prior to plant startup.

TMI-2 has been shut down for several weeks for correction of operating problems and is not scheduled to start up prior to early August 1978. Met Ed at its own risk has already completed the installation of the BPRA retainers and removal of the ORA's. As noted above, startup will not be permitted prior to approval of all supporting documentation.

3. Auxiliary Transformer

The licensee has informed us that recent studies have shown that for the normal operating range of the grid, operation with a single auxiliary transformer will not provide adequate voltage levels to support operation of balance-of-plant auxiliaries and engineered safety features. Met Ed proposed both short term and long term corrective action which they believe to be in accordance with General Design Criterion 17 and the TMI-2 FSAR. See Met Ed letter of May 30, 1978, and LER 78-35/IT attached for additional information. We have not yet completed our review of this information. As noted above, TMI-2 is expected to be shut down until August, 1978, by which time our review should be complete.

Original signed by:

H. Silver

Harley Silver, Project Manager  
Light Water Reactors Branch No. 4  
Division of Project Management

cc: See next page

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