

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

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March 10, 1976
GQL 0347

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Dr. D. F. Knuth, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Docket No. 50-320
Three Mile Island Nuclear Station
Unit 2

Dear Dr. Knuth:

On February 9, 1976, Mr. L. Narrow of your office was verbally notified of a situation which Metropolitan Edison did not consider reportable in accordance with 10CFR50.55E but which was reported for information only. This letter constitutes the thirty day follow-up letter.

Description of Incident

During unloading of the reactor internals plenum assembly and core support shield from the shipping container, the shims and other shipping hardware were collected and stored in a site construction office while awaiting a final "as shipped" inventory list. In approximately two weeks the "as shipped" inventory list arrived indicating 25 shipping shims had been packed. A count of the shipping shims collected from the shipping container totaled 23. Two (2) shipping shims were missing and at the present time remain unaccounted for. These stainless steel shipping shims are approximately 2" x 4" x .002".

Analysis of Safety Implications

Should the two missing shipping shims remain undetected in the internals, the possibility exists that they could eventually lodge against a fuel assembly, which would preclude proper heat removal flow and could cause hot spots to occur. The occurrence of hot spots would be detectable utilizing the incore monitoring system, which constantly monitors the core conditions during operations.

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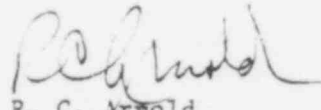
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Corrective Action

This condition was documented by a site deviation report. Babcock & Wilcox, the NSSS supplier and erector and United Engineers & Constructors, Inc., the construction manager, have both performed a complete visual re-examination of the internal components and have verified that the shims are not present. Secondly, Babcock & Wilcox has been directed to submit all necessary data to assure GPUSC that the missing shims are not contained in the reactor coolant system or the reactor internals. This information will be available for your review on site by April 30, 1976.

Very truly yours,



R. C. Arnold
Vice President

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