

January 23, 1978

Alan S. Rosenthal, Esq., Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal
Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dr. W. Reed Johnson
Atomic Safety and Licensing
Appeal Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

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Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal
Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

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

Gentlemen:

This letter is to inform the Board of two matters relative to the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (TMI-2): 1) capability of the reactor building emergency cooling booster pumps; and 2) capability of the compressed air starting trains for the diesel generators. In addition, we enclose for your information a 10 CFR Part 21 report concerning the concealment of three pipe gouges by a qualified welder.

With regard to the first matter, on January 13, 1978 the Applicant notified the NRC, Region I Office of Inspection and Enforcement, of a deficiency with the reactor building emergency cooling booster pumps, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55(e). The Applicant reported that these pumps are not able to provide the specified flow and head to the reactor building fan coolers, apparently due to an error in procurement. It was indicated that the replacements necessary for correcting this deficiency will be delivered in several weeks.

Regarding the second matter in section 9.6.2 of the NRC Staff's SER for TMI-2, we stated that each diesel generator is provided with two separate and independent compressed air starting trains each capable of providing five starts without recharging (totalling ten starts for each diesel). The Applicant recently informed the NRC Staff that the total number of starts provided by the two separate independent starting trains serving each diesel generator is not ten but five without recharging.

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The Staff is presently reviewing each of the matters discussed above and investigating the matter raised in the Part 21 report. The Staff does not believe that any of the above matters relate to any of the issues in controversy, nor does the Staff believe they present extraordinary new circumstances not put into controversy in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Henry J. McGurran
Counsel for NRC Staff

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure:

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