

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of: )  
METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY, ET AL. ) Docket No. 50-320  
(Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, )  
Unit 2) )

ORDER FOR MODIFICATION OF LICENSE

I.

Metropolitan Edison Company, Jersey Central Power and Light Company and Pennsylvania Electric Company (the licensee) are the holders of Facility Operating License No. DPR-73, which authorizes operation of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2 at power levels up to 2772 megawatts thermal. The facility, which is located in London<sup>d</sup>Perry Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, is a pressurized water reactor used for the commercial generation of electricity.

II.

On March 28, 1979, an accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 2 resulted in substantial damage to the reactor core and to certain reactor systems and components. The facility is not capable of operation and is in a shutdown condition with fuel in the core. Although many systems and components were damaged or have subsequently failed, the facility is now in a safe and stable cooling condition. The stable, long-term cooling condition is currently being maintained in accordance with approved operating and contingency procedures, with decay heat being removed by natural convection.

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circulation of primary coolant through the core with heat rejection through the "A" steam generator. The "A" steam generator is producing steam which is condensed in the condenser and recirculated to the "A" steam generator. An alternate means of removing decay heat from the primary coolant is through the "B" steam generator. The steam side of the "B" steam generator has been modified to provide a water solid, closed loop cooling system which is in turn cooled by the secondary services closed cooling water system. Either steam generator cooling mode is adequate to remove decay heat from the primary coolant. If natural circulation cooling of the core should be lost, contingency plans and procedures have been prepared and approved for alternate means of providing long-term core cooling. These alternate core cooling means include forced circulation of the primary coolant using the reactor coolant pumps or decay heat removal pumps.

### III.

The facility operating license is being reviewed and a detailed evaluation of the license modifications necessary to reflect the present condition of the facility and to assure the continued maintenance of the current safe, stable, long-term cooling condition of the facility, is being prepared. This evaluation will be set forth in a forthcoming Safety Evaluation which will address the imposition of new and/or revised Technical Specifications setting forth appropriate license conditions. It is expected that this effort will be completed in about 30 days at which time a further Order will be issued.

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Pending completion of the review and evaluation, it is appropriate to limit activities at the facility to maintenance of the reactor in its present condition. Furthermore, because of the current condition of the plant, the public health, safety and interest require that this suspension be effective immediately.

IV.

Accordingly, pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Commission's Rules and Regulations in 10 CFR Parts 2 and 50, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) The authority provided by Facility Operating License No. DPR-73 to operate Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2, is hereby suspended, effective immediately.
- (2) Pending further amendment of the Facility Operating License, the licensee shall maintain the facility in a shutdown condition in accordance with the approved operating and contingency procedures for the facility.

In view of the further action to be taken with respect to this facility, the time within which the licensee may file an answer and any person whose interest may be affected by this Order may request a hearing in this matter, shall be as provided by the subsequent Order identified in Part III above.

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Dated at Bethesda, Maryland  
this 20th day of July 1979

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*Harold R. Denton*

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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