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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

August 15, 1979

Docket No. 50-293

Mr. G. Carl Andognini
Boston Edison Company
M/C NUCLEAR
800 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02199

Dear Mr. Andognini:

By letters dated April 13 and July 24, 1979, you submitted proposed inservice inspection and testing program descriptions and requests for relief from selected ASME Code requirements pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g). Although we have not completed our detailed review of your submittals, our preliminary review makes clear to us that your proposed program to implement those ASME Code requirements that you have found to be practical would increase the scope of inservice inspection and testing for your faility beyond that currently required by your Technical Specifications. We have concluded that this upgrading of your inservice inspection and testing program will further enhance safety.

Based on our preliminary review, we agree with your determination that it is impractical within the limitations of design, geometry and materials of construction of components, for you to meet certain of the specified ASME Code requirements and that imposition of those requirements would result in hardships or unusual difficulties without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i), we hereby grant relief, on an interim basis, pending completion of our detailed review, from those inservice inspection and testing requirements of the ASME Code that you have requested. Moreover, since the scope of the inservice inspection and testing will be increased by your proposed program, and the granting of this relief is based only on the impracticality of selected ASME Code requirements, we have determined that the relief granted neither increases the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered nor decreases safety margins and that, therefore, it does not involve a significant hazards consideration. Therefore, you are authorized to, and should proceed to, implement your proposed program (except where your current Technical Specifications are more restrictive).

During the period between now and the date we complete our detailed review of your submittal, you must comply with both your existing Technical Specifications and your proposed inservice inspection and testing program. In the event conflicting requirements arise for some components, you must comply with the more restrictive requirements (e.g., shorter inspection intervals, increased number of parameters measures). In other words, the

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granting of this relief from ASME Code requirements should not be interpreted to give you relief from any of the requirements in your existing Technical Specifications. However, if you find that your current Technical Specifications are less conservative than the proposed program from a safety standpoint, you should apply for a Technical Specification change.

When our detailed review of your ISI/IST submittals is complete we will: (1) issue final approval of your program (which may contain modifications resulting from the staff's review), (2) grant relief from any ASME Code requirements that are determined to be impractical for your facility for the duration of the inspection interval and (3) issue appropriate changes to your Technical Specifications, as requested by your letter dated March 15, 1979, and any subsequent applications as a result of the detailed review.

A copy of the FEDERAL REGISTER Notice related to this action is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:
FEDERAL REGISTER Notice

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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cc:

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