

November 17, 1977

Docket No.: 50-289

Metropolitan Edison Company  
ATTN: Mr. J. G. Herbein  
Vice President  
P. O. Box 542  
Reading, Pennsylvania 19603

Gentlemen:

By letter dated September 8, 1977, you committed to performing periodic vibration testing and ultrasonic inspection of the shafts of the decay heat pumps at Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit No. 1 (TMI-1). This commitment was made at the request of the staff in order to provide assurance of continued shaft integrity pending our review of metallurgical and systems data relating to the cause of the failure of a similar shaft at Crystal River Unit No. 3. The commitment also constituted an acceptable alternative to prompt disassembly and inspection of the TMI-1 shafts using direct visual techniques.

By letter dated November 10, 1977, you stated that you did not intend to perform further shaft testing which would require uncoupling of the shaft. Per telecon between Mr. G. B. Zwetzig of the NRC and Mr. Ron Stevens of your staff, it was determined that your statement meant that Met Ed intended to discontinue the ultrasonic inspection committed to in their letter of September 8, 1977.

This is to advise you that we have not concluded our review of this issue and therefore have no basis for concluding that termination of periodic ultrasonic inspection of these shafts is acceptable. Moreover, neither in your letter of November 10, 1977, nor in other correspondence do you provide an acceptable basis for terminating such ultrasonic inspection. Accordingly, we do not concur with termination of the periodic ultrasonic examination of the decay heat pump shafts at this time. In this regard, however, we are currently considering your request to change the frequency for ultrasonic inspection of the decay heat pump shafts from a monthly basis to a quarterly basis. Our determination in this regard, if found acceptable, will be the subject of separate correspondence.

DISTRIBUTION:

Socket File

NRC PDR RWoodruff, I&E  
L PDR PKellog, I&E  
ORB#4 Rdg Reg. I  
VStello ABDavis, I&E  
KRGoller Reg. I  
TJCarter  
RReid  
GZwetzig  
RIngram  
Attorney, OELD  
OI&E (3)  
DEisenhut  
TBABernathy  
JRBuchanan  
ACRS (16)  
Gray File

1492 224

7910800

660

P

Metropolitan Edison Company

- 2 -

Therefore, until such time that we conclude that an acceptable basis has been established for terminating the subject vibration measurements and ultrasonic inspections we will expect you to continue to honor your commitment to perform these tests as stated in your letter of September 8, 1977. Please advise us within 10 days of receipt of this letter if you still intend to unilaterally terminate these tests.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Reid, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #4  
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

1492 225

OFFICE →	ORB#4:DOR	C-ORB#4:DOR				
SURNAME →	GZwstzig:rm	R Reid				
DA →	11/17/77	11/17/77				

Metropolitan Edison Company

cc: G. F. Trowbridge, Esquire  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge  
1800 M Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

GPU Service Corporation  
Richard W. Heward, Project Manager  
Mr. T. Gary Broughton, Safety and  
Licensing Manager  
260 Cherry Hill Road  
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Pennsylvania Electric Company  
Mr. R. W. Conrad  
Vice President, Generation  
1001 Broad Street  
Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15907

Miss Mary V. Southard, Chairman  
Citizens for a Safe Environment  
P. O. Box 405  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108

Government Publications Section  
State Library of Pennsylvania  
Box 1601 (Education Building)  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126