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SEP 18 1973

Docket No. 50-289

Metropolitan Edison Company
 ATTN: Mr. John G. Miller
 Vice President
 P. O. Box 542
 Reading, Pennsylvania

Gentlemen:

Our attention has been drawn to the design basis you have used to size overload protection (overload heaters) for the motor operators of safety-related valves. We understand that the overload heaters are designed to act on 120-125% of the design, full load motor current, as specified by the manufacturer.

In view of the number of overcurrent trips which have been reported, we have concluded that such a low rating for the overcurrent protection might unnecessarily prevent a safety-related valve from functioning in an accident situation. We consider either of the following criteria acceptable for these overload heaters:

1. Use conventional size (125%) for preoperational testing, and replace with 300% rated overload heaters before initial criticality, or
2. Use conventionally sized heaters for preoperational and periodic testing, with the overload heaters bypassed when a reactor protection signal exists, i.e., under accident conditions.

Please notify us within thirty (30) days of your intended course of action in this matter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
 R. C. DeYoung

R. C. DeYoung, Assistant Director
 for Pressurized Water Reactors
 Directorate of Licensing

cc: Mr. Gerald Charnoff
 Shaw, Pittman, Potts
 & Trowbridge

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OFFICE ▶	910 - 17th Street, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20006	L:ADPWR	L:GICB		
SURNAME ▶	x7548/L:PWR-4 RBernero:cjr	L:PWR-4 ASchwencer	RCDeYoung	T. IPPOLITO	
DATE ▶	9/17/73	9/17/73	9/17/73	9/18/73	

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