

November 19, 1973

Docket No. 50-320

EVALUATION OF REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROVISIONAL CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FOR THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2

Introduction

Metropolitan Edison Company, on October 26, 1973, filed a request for extension of the construction completion date for Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2. The dates presently set forth in the Provisional Construction Permit, CPPR-66, December 1, 1972 and December 1, 1973, are requested to be extended to May 1, 1976, and May 1, 1977. Expected fuel loading date is April 1976 and expected commercial operation is October 1976.

Changes to the plant as a result of more stringent safety recommendations developed subsequent to the start of construction and construction problems encountered on the site have had a cumulative impact on construction progress.

The only modification proposed is the extension of the construction completion date which does not allow any work not already permitted by the construction permit.

Discussion

The applicant states that the following factors have contributed to the delay in construction by their requirement for additional engineering and/or construction time:

1. Reactor building ring girder revision and modification
2. Modifications to minimize the consequences of postulated high-energy systems failure external to the reactor building.
3. Construction priority was given to the completion of Unit 1.
4. Major reduction (20%) of construction force to assure more effective management control over quality of work.
5. Productive time less and cleanup effort following heavy rainfall in June 1972.

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- 6. Modification of the reactor vessel internals as a result of Oconee 1 experience.
- 7. Modifications to gantry crane and difficulties in setting of the reactor vessel, steam generators, and polar crane delayed construction of the reactor building.

Many of the causes for delay were substantially beyond the control of the applicant.

The applicant requested an extension of the Provisional Construction Permit exceeding the anticipated fuel loading date by 13 months.

Conclusion

The staff has determined:

- 1. That the system revisions and modifications in items 1, 2, and 6 above are changes to the systems as they were described in the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report. The details of the changes in items 1 and 2 will be evaluated by the staff during the review of the Final Safety Analysis Report; details of the changes in item 6 have been reviewed.
- 2. That the factors contributing to the delay show good cause and that the actions of extending the completion date does not involve significant hazards consideration.
- 3. That the requested extension beyond the presently estimated fuel loading date is adequate to account for possible additional delays.

The staff concludes that issuance of an Order extending the latest completion date for the construction of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2, as presently set forth in Construction Permit No. CPPR-66 should be authorized. The order is to be effective on the date of issuance.

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