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September 11, 1979
GQL 1163

Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Attn: Boyce Grier, Director
Region 1
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

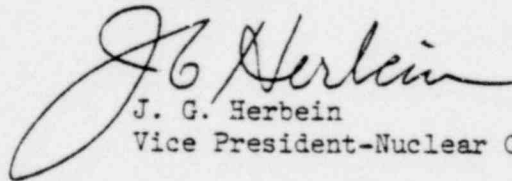
Dear Sir:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 2 (TMI-2)
Operating License No. DPR-73
Docket No. 50-320

Enclosed please find Licensee Event Report (LER) No. 79-12/3L. This event deals with fire-barrier penetration seals and involved entry of the Action Statement, associated with Technical Specification Section 3.7.11.

Although this event occurred prior to the March 28, 1979 accident at TMI-2, the processing of this report was impacted by that accident. Therefore, as was discussed on March 29, 1979, in a telephone conversation with members of your staff, this report is being submitted late.

Sincerely,



J. G. Herbein
Vice President-Nuclear Operations

JGH:RAL:tas

Attachment

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Supplemental Information
LER 79-012/03L-0

A total of 238 fire barrier penetration seals are installed in Three Mile Island Unit 2 which utilize Firewall - 50 sealant. Of these 238 seals, 195 (about 80%) were inspected by Met-Ed's Quality Control Department to determine if they satisfied the acceptance criteria of Surveillance Procedure 2331-R3. Of these 195 seals, 144 were found not to meet the acceptance criteria (60% of the total number of Firewall-50 seals), and 51 seals (22%) were found to be totally free of defects. The existing defects appear to be a result of dehydration (Firewall-50 seal material contains 30% water by volume). This is substantiated by the general defect-free condition of most seals in high humidity areas e.g. Intake Screen and Pump House.

Defective seals are being considered as temporarily functional based on temporary acceptance criteria agreed upon by ANI (American Nuclear Insurers) and the seal installer, Chemtrol Corporation. The fire seals that did not meet this criteria have been repaired using silicone foam. ANI has informed Chemtrol Corporation that any new installations made by Chemtrol utilizing Firewall-50 will be subject to prior review and approval by ANI. Chemtrol Corporation has agreed to investigate and correct by repair or replacement of all Firewall-50 seals if warranted as a result of further investigation. No time schedule has been established for this as a result of the recent Unit 2 incident.

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Event Description and Probable Consequences (Continued)

posted) and because no event occurred which required the functioning of the subject Fire Barrier Seals , this event did not adversely affect the health and safety of the public.

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