

SEP 27 1973

Docket No. 50-289

A. Giambusso, Deputy Director for Reactor Projects, Licensing

EXTENSION OF CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATE FOR THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

On August 30, 1973, the Metropolitan Edison Company requested an extension of the completion dates for the construction of Three Mile Island, Unit 1. At present, the construction permit (CPPR-40) lists the earliest and latest dates for completion of construction as September 30, 1972 and September 30, 1973, respectively. The applicant's letter requests amendment of these dates to February 1, 1974 and February 1, 1975, respectively. The only modification proposed is the extension of the construction completion dates which does not allow any work to be performed that is not already allowed by the construction permit. Therefore, the staff finds that this action does not involve any significant hazards consideration. The staff also finds that the applicant's explanation in its letter of August 30, 1973 is reasonable and shows good cause for delay. The causes for the delay include: (i) the excavation and repair of the containment vessel ring girder, (ii) major reduction of the construction force to assure more effective management control, (iii) modification of the reactor vessel internals as a result of Oconee 1 experience, and (iv) time loss and cleanup effort following a tropical storm in June 1972. Many of the causes for delay were substantially beyond the control of the applicant.

The staff does not consider it necessary or appropriate at this time to extend the construction permit out into 1975. We believe that extension of the construction permit to July 1, 1974 is sufficient. We have consulted with the applicant's project manager and he agreed that extension to July 1, 1974 is realistic and acceptable.

The Regulatory staff finds that prior public notice of an order authorizing the requested extension is not required since the action does not involve significant hazards consideration, and that good cause exists for the issuance of an order extending the completion date.

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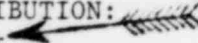
Accordingly, issuance of an Order extending the latest completion date for the construction of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1, as presently set forth in Construction Permit No. CPPR-40 to July 1, 1974 should be authorized. The Order is to be effective on the date of issuance.

Original Signed by

K. R. Goller *KRG*

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

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*(rechanges)*

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