

POOR ORIGINAL

MAY 14 1976

Docket No. 50-289

Metropolitan Edison Company
ATTN: Mr. R. C. Arnold
Vice President - Generation
P. O. Box 542
Reading, Pennsylvania 19603

Gentlemen:

By letter dated March 23, 1976, (reference GQL 0438) you requested an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix H, Section II.C.2, to permit the operation of Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 1 (TMI-1) during Cycle 2 with the reactor vessel surveillance specimens and holder tubes removed from the reactor vessel.

You additionally requested, in a separate letter dated March 23, 1976, (GQL 0440) corresponding Technical Specification changes to reflect the removal of the surveillance capsules and holder tubes during Cycle 2 and to establish provisions to revise the capsule withdrawal schedule prior to Cycle 3 operation.

As required by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix H, and discussed in your letter of March 23, 1976, the surveillance specimens contained within the surveillance capsules receive a higher neutron flux than the reactor vessel inner surface. As noted in the enclosed Safety Evaluation this difference results in the surveillance specimens being irradiated at a rate 2.4 times higher than the vessel. At this rate, the specimens would continue to lead the vessel in accumulated neutron flux exposure even if removed during Cycle 2 operations.

We have therefore concluded that if the reactor vessel surveillance specimens are removed from TMI-1 for Cycle 2 operation and reinstalled prior to Cycle 3 operation, the reactor vessel surveillance program would continue to fulfill the purpose of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix H.

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We have also concluded that an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix H during Cycle 2 of operation will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and is in the public interest. Thereby, the actions requested in your letter of March 23, 1976 (reference GQL-0438) are approved.

In addition, the Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 15 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-50 for the TMI-1. This amendment provides for the removal of surveillance capsules during Cycle 2, the rescheduling of the surveillance program to conform with Appendix H of 10 CFR Part 50, and the clarification of other requirements.

Copies of the Safety Evaluation and the Federal Register Notice are also enclosed.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]
Signed by

Victor Stello, Jr., Director
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosures:

- 1. Amendment No. 15 to DPR-50
- 2. Safety Evaluation
- 3. Federal Register Notice

cc w/enclosures:
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The actions requested in your letter of March 23, 1976 (reference GQL 0438) are hereby approved. In addition, the Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 15 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-50 for the TMI-1. This amendment provides for the removal of surveillance capsules during Cycle 2, the rescheduling of the surveillance program to conform with Appendix H of 10 CFR Part 50, and the clarification of other requirements.

Copies of the Safety Evaluation and the Federal Register Notice are also enclosed.

Sincerely,

POOR ORIGINAL

Karl R. Goller, Assistant Director
for Operating Reactors
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 15 to DPR-50
2. Safety Evaluation
3. Federal Register Notice

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5/11/76

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cc w/enclosures & Metropolitan
Edison filing dated: 3/23/76
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