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TO: J P. O'Reilly

FROM: Metropolitan Edison Co
Reading, Pa. 19603
R. C. Arnold

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DESCRIPTION
Ltr furnishing Envrio Event 76-8/40 on 2-19-76 on which Flow Recorder would not have closed discharge valve WDG-V47 from the Waste Gas Decay Tank on high flow.....

ENCLOSURE

POOR ORIGINAL

1556 289

PLANT NAME: Three Mile Island #1

SAFETY

FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

ENVIRO

3-8-76 RIS

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METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY SUBSIDIARY OF GENERAL PUBLIC UTILITIES CORPORATION

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TELEPHONE 215 - 929-3601

February 26, 1976
CQL 0289



Mr. J. P. O'Reilly, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Operating License DPR-50
Docket No. 50-289

In accordance with the Environmental Technical Specifications for Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 1, we are reporting the following reportable occurrence:

- (1) Report Number: ER 76-8/40
- (2a) Report Date: February 26, 1976
- (2b) Event Date: February 19, 1976
- (3) Facility: Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 1
- (4) Identification of Occurrence:

Flow Recorder (FR-123) would not have closed discharge valve WDG-V47 from the Waste Gas Decay Tank on high flow which constitutes a violation of the Environmental Technical Specifications, paragraph 2.3.2.A.4

- (5) Conditions Prior to Occurrence:

Power: Core 100%
Elec. 848 MWe

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RC Flow: 138.5 x 10⁶ lbs./hr.

RC Pressure: 2155 psig

RC Temp.: 579°F

PRZR Level: 220 inches

2087

PRZR Temp.: 655°F

(6) Description of Occurrence:

In preparation for a Waste Gas Decay Tank release, the system was lined up for operation in accordance with the operating procedure. At approximately 2110 hours, while operating the manual loader to supply air for opening of WDG-V47 (Discharge Valve for Waste Gas Tanks), the operator observed no indication of flow on Flow Recorder (FR-123). The operator increased the air supply to the valve until indication showed the valve was fully open. He then decreased FR-123 setpoint to 3 CFM which did not actuate the interlock for closing WDG-V47. The operator immediately took corrective action by securing WDG-V47 at approximately 2120 hours which terminated the release. A decrease in tank pressure indicated that a gas release was in progress during this time without flow indication on a high flow interlock.

(7) Designation of the Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

The cause of the occurrence has been determined to be procedure/personnel in that the test switch for the recorder was in the test position. In this position the recorder will not respond to its normal input signal from the transmitter.

The surveillance procedure for checking of interlocks associated with WDG-V47 includes a specific step to return the "Test-Normal" switch to the Normal position upon completion of test. However, the procedure for release of Waste Gas Decay Tanks does not require verification of the switch position to insure it is in the "Normal" position prior to start of release.

(8) Analysis of Occurrence:

During the release of gaseous waste with the flow recorder (FR-123) and its associated alarm interlock inoperable, no Technical Specification release rate or concentration limits were exceeded. Based on the Auxiliary and Fuel Handling Building Ventilation Exhaust Radiation Monitor (RM-A8), the release rate from the stack was 4.4×10^2 m³/sec. which is below the Technical Specification release rate limit of 1.2×10^5 m³/sec. Radiation Monitor (RM-A7) which monitors gaseous waste directly from the tanks alarms at 2×10^4 CPM. The highest indication reached during the release was 3.5×10^3 CPM. Additionally, a release rate of 4.4×10^2 m³/sec., plus a tank concentration of 2.23×10^{-2} μ Ci/cc (99.9% Xe-133) and a normal ventilation flow of 126,000 CFM indicates that the release rate from the tank was approximately 10 CFM. However, had the release from the tank been higher, relative to Technical Specification limits, a high alarm on RM-A8 (G) set to alarm at 75% of the Technical Specification limit, or RM-A7 (G), set at 4×10^4 CPM, would have independently closed WDG-V47 through interlocks terminating the release.

(9) Corrective Action:

Immediate: The immediate corrective action was termination of the release. In addition, FR-123 was removed from service and a complete calibration of the recorder was performed. Upon placing FR-123 back in service, the test switch was returned to the normal position and an interlock test conducted. The calibration and test proved to be satisfactory.

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Long Term: The procedure for Release of Gas Decay Tanks will be revised to include verification of the test normal switch position prior to a release.

(10) Failure Data:

Not Applicable

(11) Similar Occurrences:

None

Sincerely,

Signed - R. C. Arnold

R. C. Arnold
Vice President

RCA:JJM:ilm

cc: Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

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