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Metropolitan Edison Company

Post Office Box 542 Reading Pennsylvania 19603 215 929-3601

May 18, 1979 GQL 0692

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Attn: R. W. Reid, Chief Operating Reactors Branch No. 4 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Sir:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1) Operating License No. DPR-50 Docket No. 50-289 Fire Protection Program

The TMI-1 Fire Protection Safety Evaluation Report (FPSER) under Item 3.2.2, Cable Separation, specified that a study or test be performed on the asbestos board fire barriers which protect TMI-1 cable trays and conduits. The purpose of this study or test is to verify the effectiveness of the presently installed design in preventing the spread of a cable tray fire to other trays and in preventing damage to redundant cables in event of an exposure fire. The results of the test are to be submitted by July 15, 1979, along with proposals for modifications, should the test results indicate that modifications are necessary.

Attached please find a description of the test for your information. If you have any comments, please return them as soon as possible to Mr. W. S. Stanley of my staff at (215) 921-6587.

incerely J. G. Herbein

J. G. Herbein Vice President Generation

JGH:WSS:mrm

Attachment

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# Description of Asbestos Board Fire Barrier Test

This test is designed to simulate cable tray and conduit configurations as installed at TMI-1. The test is in two parts - the first to investigate tray-to-tray fire spread, the second to investigate the effects of an exposure fire.

Please note that a 60% fill by volume, as used below in the test description, is determined as follows:

# Design

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The layout of the cable trays, conduit and asbestos barriers is shown in the accompanying Drawing S-112178 Sheet 1 Rev. BB.

# Test 79-1 Tray-to-Tray Fire Spread

For the first test, Tray A shall be randomly filled to approximately 60% by volume with cable laid the full length of the tray. Trays E and C will be filled with one layer of 9 conductor #10 AWG and #12AWG, respectively. A length of 9 conductor #12AWG will be run in each conduit. See Drawing S-112178 Sheet 2 Rev. BB for the method by which cable will be laid in Trays E and C.

The cable in Trays E and C and in the conduit shall be energized to detect fire-induced short circuits. Drawing S-112178 Sheet 3 Rev. BB shows the cable intraconnection for the short circuit test connection.

Thermocouples (maximum temperature: 2500°F) will be placed as indicated on Drawing S-112178 Sheet 4 Rev. BB.

The fire load shall consist of two bundles of oil-soaked burlap, one bundle placed in the center and one in the south end of Tray A. Each bundle shall consist of a 24" x 24" piece of 9 oz/sq.yd. burlap folded into a 4" x 4" x 6" bundle and wrapped with fine copper wire to retain its shape. Each bundle shall be soaked with 160 + 5g of oil.

#### Test Procedure

- 1. Energize the test circuits
- 2. Start temperature recorders
- 3. Ignite bundles with a propane torch
- 4. Start timer
- 5. Record temperature until the applied flame has been allowed to burn itself out naturally

Test Procedure: (cont'd)

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- 6. If a short circuit test lamp lights, record the time elapsed from the beginning of the test
- 7. After the fire has burned itself out, record the general condition of the cables in the cable trays and the condition of the Marinite barrier.

# Test 79-2 Exposure Fire Test

Trays A and C shall be randomly filled to approximately 60% by volume with cable laid the full length of the tray. As part of the 60%, a layer of 9 conductor #10AWG will be laid on top of the cable in Tray A and a layer of 9 conductor #12AWG will be laid on top of the cable in Tray C for the short circuit test. Tray E will be provided with one layer of 9 conductor #10AWG laid as shown in drawing S-112178 Sheet 2 Rev. BB for the short circuit test. A length of 9 conductor #12AWG will be run in each conduit as in the first test.

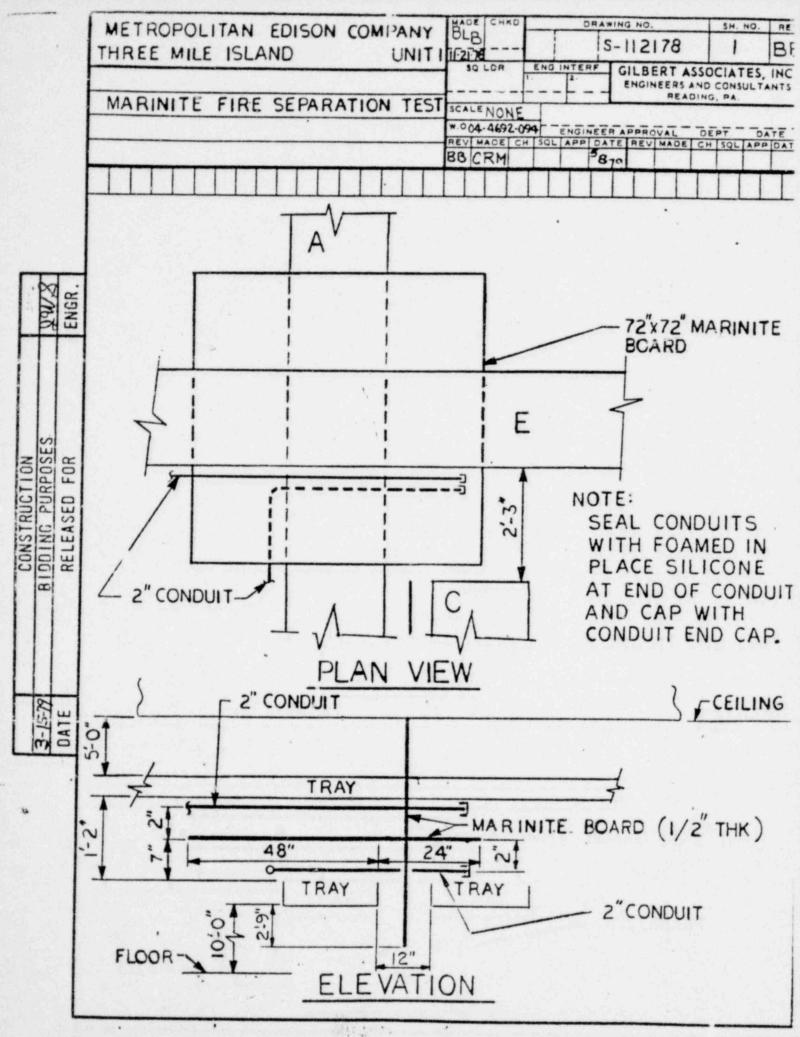
The thermocouples will remain in the same locations as those in the first test.

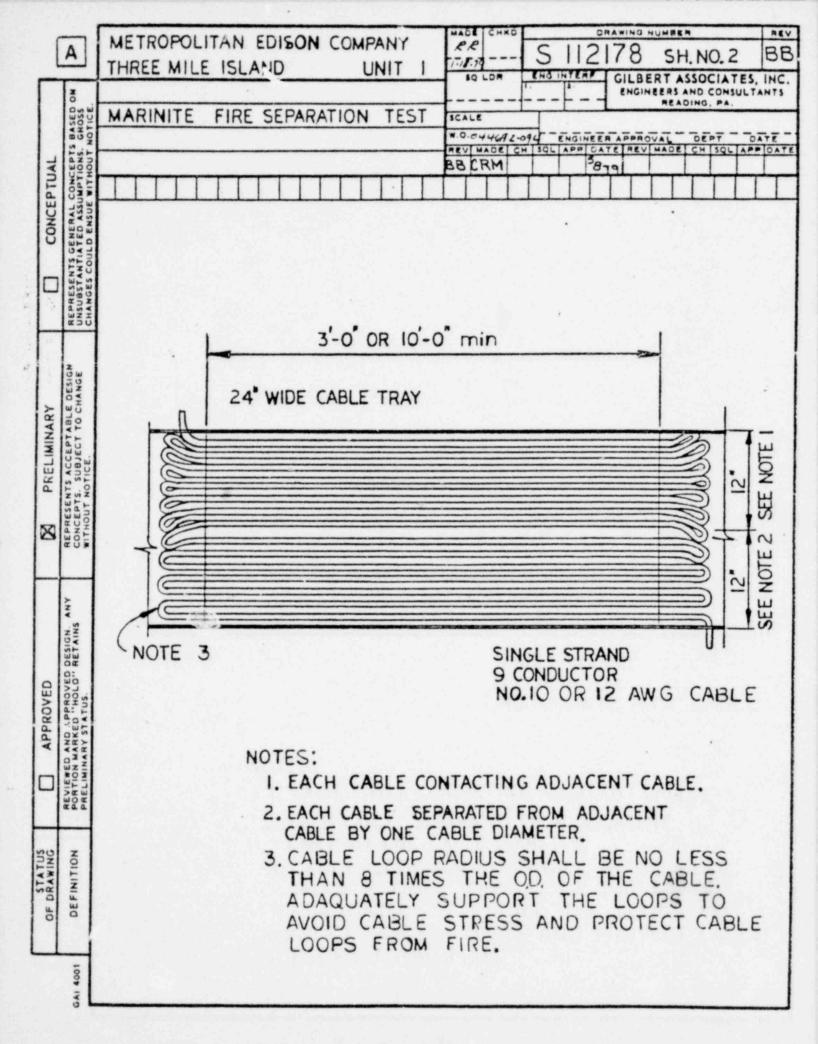
The fire load shall consist of  $9-8' \times 2'' \times 4''$  spruce studs randomly placed on the floor beneath the centerline of Tray A; a 1.5'  $\times$  1.5'  $\times$  1.5' cardboard box of tightly packed rags and paper of known weight, strewn over the studs; and one gallon of lube oil of known grade and type, poured over the wood, paper and rags.

# Test Procedure:

- 1. Energize the test circuits
- 2. Start temperature recorders
- 3. Ignite the fire load with a propane torch
- 4. Record temperatures until the applied flame has naturally burned itself out
- 5. If a short circuit test lamp lights, record the time elapsed from the beginning of the test
- 6. After the fire has burned itself out, record the general condition of the cables in the trays and the Marinite barrier

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