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April 2, 1980
TLL 154

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulations
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
Reactor Building Spray System

In response to your letter of March 7, 1980, we have evaluated the TMI-1 Reactor Building Spray System (RBSS). We have determined that by eliminating the sodium thiosulfate tank and adjusting the sodium hydroxide tank concentration and level, the system can maintain a spray pH between 8.5 and 11.0 under all single failure conditions except failure of BS-V2A/B. If BS-V2A/B fails to open, the spray pH exceeds 11.0. The pH limits of 8.5 and 11.0 are necessary to prevent corrosion effects yet remove the maximum amount of iodine.

We are currently investigating ways to overcome the above single failure condition. It appears that a close coupling of the Sodium Hydroxide Tank and Borated Water Storage Tank will eliminate the high spray pH for this single failure. We are now determining whether or not close enough coupling of these tanks is possible given the physical plant arrangement. Assuming that an adequate close coupling can be achieved, studies would be performed to specify the acceptable tank concentration and ranges. A Technical Specification Change including the studies will then be submitted to reflect the new tank limits, and delete the sodium thiosulfate tank from the specifications. This change request will also address offsite dose concentrations for the modified system.

We anticipate that our technical specification change request will be forwarded for your approval by September 1, 1980.

Sincerely,

J. G. Herbein
Vice President - Nuclear Operations

Handwritten: April 5/10

JGH:dw
cc: J. T. Collins
H. Silver

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