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Metropolitan Edison Company
Post Office Box 430
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057
717 844-4041

Western Union Direct Dial Number

July 17, 1980
TLL 353

Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Attn: Boyne H. Grier, Director
Region I
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Sir:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit II (TMI-2)
Operating License No. DPR-73
Docket No. 80-320
Licensee Event Report No. 80-29/1P

This letter is confirm the conversation between Mr. R. W. Samuel, Unit II Plant Operations Review Committee Vice Chairman, and Mr. R. J. Conte, Senior Resident Inspector, Three Mile Island, Unit II Program Office at 0912 hours on July 17, 1980. Mr. R. J. Conte (Region I Designee) agreed to inform the Region I Director of this conversation.

A condition considered reportable under Technical Specification 6.9.1.3.b will be entered at 0930 hours on July 17, 1980.

On July 14, 1980 the Gray 30P diesel generator failed to start while performing Surveillance Procedure 4308-M16. The follow-up investigation indicated a possible problem with the 100 RPM speed switch. This speed switch disables the air start system when 100 RPM is reached by the generator. It also activates the governor shutdown solenoid after 5 seconds in the event the diesel has failed to reach 100 RPM. During a start attempt, while troubleshooting, two of four air-start motors failed to engage properly and the diesel was manually tripped. Due to this failure the diesel could not be returned to service within the 72 hours required by action statement (a) per Technical Specification 6.9.1.1, hence a prompt report is submitted.

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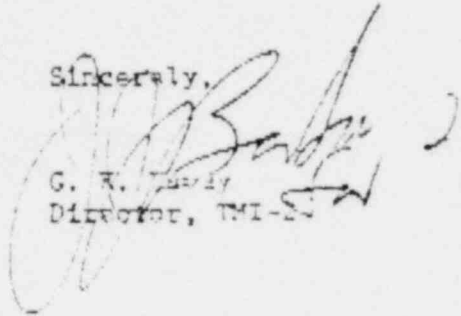
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The diesel generator will be returned to operable status as soon as replacement parts are received and installed, and control circuit problems are rectified.

Further details will be included in the follow-up report.

Sincerely,



G. K. [unclear]
Director, TMI-2

GKH RWS/ln

cc: J. T. Collins