

7810260100 - review of PER Level

328

APR 20 1978

Docket No. 50-320

MEMORANDUM FOR: D. F. Ross, Assistant Director for Reactor Safety,
Division of System Safety

FROM: D. B. Vassallo, Assistant Director for Light Water
Reactors, Division of Project Management

SUBJECT: TMI-2 PARTIAL LOOP OPERATION

The TMI-2 technical specifications call out requirements for plant operation with two and three reactor coolant pumps. The operating license does not permit two-pump operation, but does allow three-pump operation. Because of an earlier mechanical failure in the anti-reverse rotation mechanism on one pump, TMI-2 went critical with only three pumps in operation and is proceeding into Mode 1 (Power Operator) before repairing the fourth pump.

Recent discussions with RSB on this matter confirm that there is w/ safety concern in going to power with three pumps. However, there are areas of justifying documentation which are incomplete. Metropolitan Edison (with the concurrence of their vendor Babcock & Wilcox) has provided some supporting information and commitments in their letter of March 29, 1978 (enclosed) and RSB indicated they will soon prepare a request for additional information, response to which they expect will satisfactorily complete the documentation required.

Based on the above, we intend to make no changes in the operating license regarding partial loop operation at this time. If you have a problem with this approach, please let me know.

Original signed by
D. B. Vassallo

D. B. Vassallo, Assistant Director
for Light Water Reactors
Division of Project Management

CCS:
S. A. Varga
H. Silver
T. Novak

DISTRIBUTION:
DOCKET FILE
LWR-4 Reading
MService
DVassallo

Handwritten initials

OFFICE →	LWR-4	LWR-4	AD/LWRs	
SURNAME →	HSilver	SVarga	DBVassallo	
DATE →	4/19/78	4/19/78	4/19/78	