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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

November 18, 1980

Docket No. 50-289

Mr. R. C. Arnold
Senior Vice President
Metropolitan Edison Company
100 Interpace Parkway
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

IS NRC
EXTENSION SERVICES
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Dear Mr. Arnold:

As you know, a proposed Section 50.48 and Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 has been pending since May 1980. The Commission has recently approved a revised final version of that proposed Section 50.48 and Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 which will be published in the Federal Register shortly and will become effective 90 days after publication. This revised 10 CFR 50.48 will contain schedules for completion of all fire protection modifications. One set of schedules will be applicable to features covered by Appendix R. A similar set of schedules will be applicable to all other fire protection modifications that have been approved by the NRC staff in a staff safety evaluation report. This latter set of schedules will require completion of modifications not covered by Appendix R by schedules specified in the revised rule or by the dates now specified as license conditions, whichever is sooner, unless an extension or exemption is approved by NRC.

Some of the completion dates discussed in the SER for your facility may be associated with modifications for which the NRC staff required additional information, such as design details or test results, to be subsequently reviewed and approved by the NRC staff prior to implementation. To the extent that there are fire protection modifications such as this for your facility and the required additional information has not yet been approved by the staff as evidenced in a staff safety evaluation report, there is no present implementation requirement; consequently, completion of such items will be governed by the schedules in the revised rule.

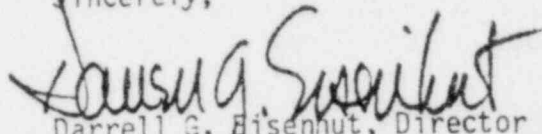
In the interim, pending the effective date of the revised rule, the Commission has approved a new Section 50.48 of 10 CFR 50 suspending completion dates for fire protection modifications previously approved by the NRC staff. This new section became effective upon publication in the Federal Register on October 29, 1980 (45 FR 71569). A copy of the new rule is enclosed for your information. This rule will be superseded by the revised rule when it becomes effective.

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In the near future, we plan to contact you to identify specifically which fire protection features associated with your facility are covered by Appendix R and would thus be subject to one set of schedules, and which are previously approved items which are covered by a different set of schedules.

Sincerely,


Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Metropolitan Edison Company

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cc w/enclosure(s):

Mr. Marvin I. Lewis
6504 Bradford Terrace
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19149

Walter W. Cohen, Consumer Advocate
Department of Justice
Strawberry Square, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17127

Robert L. Knupp, Esq.
Assistant Solicitor
Knupp and Andrews
P. O. Box P
407 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108

John E. Minnich, Chairman
Dauphin Co. Board of Commissioners
Dauphin County Courthouse
Front and Market Streets
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

- * Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555
- * Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555
- * Docketing and Service Section
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Robert Q. Pollard
609 Montpelier Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Chauncey Kepford
Judith H. Johnsrud
Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power
433 Orlando Avenue
State College, Pennsylvania 16801

Ms. Frieda Berryhill, Chairman
Coalition for Nuclear Power Plant
Postponement
2610 Greason Drive
Wilmington, Delaware 19808

Mrs. Rhoda D. Carr
1402 Marene Drive
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109

Dr. Walter H. Jordan
881 W. Outer Drive
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dr. Linda W. Little
5000 Hermitage Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612

Holly S. Keck
Anti-Nuclear Group Representing
York
245 W. Philadelphia Street
York, Pennsylvania 17404

John Levin, Esq.
Pennsylvania Public Utilities Comm.
Box 3265
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Jordan D. Cunningham, Esq.
Fox, Farr and Cunningham
2320 North 2nd Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

Theodore A. Adler, Esq.
WIDOFF REAGER SELKOWITZ & ADLER
P. O. Box 1547
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

Ms. Marjorie M. Aamodt
R.D. #5
Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320

Ms. Karen Sheldon
Sheldon, Harmon & Weiss
1725 I Street, N.W. - Suite 506
Washington, D. C. 20006

Earl B. Hoffman
Dauphin County Commissioner
Dauphin County Courthouse
Front and Market Streets
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Ms. Ellen R. Weiss, Esq.
Sheldon, Harmon & Weiss
1725 I Street, N.W.
Suite 506
Washington, D. C. 20006

Mr. Steven C. Sholly
304 South Market Street
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055

Mr. Thomas Gerusky
Bureau of Radiation Protection
Department of Environmental Resources
P. O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Mr. G. P. Miller
Mr. R. F. Wilson
Mr. J. J. Barton
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

G. F. Trowbridge, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Mr. E. G. Wallace
Licensing Manager
GPU Service Corporation
100 Interpace Parkway
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Mr. R. W. Conrad
Vice President, Generation
Pennsylvania Electric Company
1007 Broad Street
Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15907

Miss Mary V. Southard, Chairperson
Citizens for a Safe Environment
P. O. Box 405
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108

Government Publications Section
State Library of Pennsylvania
Box 1601 (Education Building)
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126

Mr. David D. Maxwell, Chairman
Board of Supervisors
Londonderry Township
RFD#1 - Geyers Church Road
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III Office
ATTN: EIS COORDINATOR
Curtis Building (Sixth Floor)
6th and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Mr. J. G. Herbein
Director, Nuclear Assurance
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

Ms. Jane Lee
R.D. 3, Box 3521
Etters, Pennsylvania 17319

Karin W. Carter, Esq.
505 Executive House
P. O. Box 2357
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Honorable Mark Cohen
512 D-3 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dauphin County Office Emergency
Preparedness
Court House, Room 7
Front & Market Streets
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Department of Environmental Resources
ATTN: Director, Office of Radiological
Health
P. O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

Director, Criteria and Standards
Division
Office of Radiation Programs (ANR-460)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D. C. 20460

Mr. Robert B. Borsum
Babcock & Wilcox
Nuclear Power Generation Division
Suite 420, 7735 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

* Ivan W. Smith, Esq.
Atomic Safety & Licensing Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Ms. Kathy McCaughin
Three Mile Island Alert, Inc.
23 South 21st street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17104

Mr. L. W. Harding
Supervisor of Licensing
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Mr. R. J. Toole
Manager, TMI-1
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Mr. W. E. Potts
Radiological Controls Manager, TMI-1
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Mr. I. R. Finrock, Jr.
Jersey Central Power & Light Company
Madison Avenue at Punch Bowl Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07950

J. B. Lieberman, Esq.
Berlock, Israel & Liberman
26 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Mr. J. J. Colitz
Plant Engineering Manager, TMI-1
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

York College of Pennsylvania
Country Club Road
York, Pennsylvania 17405

Mr. G. K. Hovey
Director, TMI-2
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Mr. B. Elam
Manager, Plant Engineering, Unit 2
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Mr. Richard Roberts
The Patriot
812 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

Mr. R. W. Heward
Manager, Radiological Control, Unit 2
Metropolitan Edison Company
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Allen R. Carter, Chairman
Joint Legislative Committee on Energy
P. O. Box 142
Suite 513
Senate Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Daniel M. Pell, Esq.
ANGRY
32 South Beaver Street
York, Pennsylvania 17401

William S. Jordan, III, Esq.
Harmon & Weiss
1725 I Street, NW, Suite 506
Washington, DC 20006

General Counsel
Federal Emergency Management Agency
ATTN: Docket Clerk
1725 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20472

Governor's Office of State Planning
and Development
ATTN: Coordinator, Pennsylvania
State Clearinghouse
P. O. Box 1323
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

published on October 1, 1980, 45 FR 64949. The corrected § 0.91 is published below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 18, 1980.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert P. De Young, Private Radio Bureau, (202) 632-7175.

ADDRESS: Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In the Matter of amendment of Part 0 to transfer authority for common carrier matters involving public coast stations to the Private Radio Bureau.

Released: August 19, 1980.

1. In the Order in the above-captioned matter, FCC 80-179 released April 7, 1980, Section 0.91 of the rules was amended to reflect a transfer of function from the Common Carrier Bureau to the Private Radio Bureau (45 FR 25399, April 15, 1980).

2. Section 0.91 of the rules was also amended by Order, FCC 79-882, released March 7, 1980, to reflect the reorganization of the Common Carrier Bureau. Through inadvertence, our Order of April 7, amended the language of the rule prior to its having been amended by our Order of March 7, 1980 (45 FR 46191, March 13, 1980).

3. To correct this situation, Section 0.91 is amended as set forth in the attached appendix, to amend the currently effective language of the rule.

Federal Communications Commission.
(Secs. 4, 302, 48 Stat., as amended, 1066, 1082; 47 U.S.C. 154, 303).

William J. Tricarico,
Secretary.

Part 0 of Chapter I of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

In § 0.91, the introductory text is revised to read as follows:

§ 0.91 Functions of the Bureau.

The Common Carrier Bureau develops, recommends and administers policies and programs for the regulation of services, facilities, rates and practices of entities (excluding public coast stations in the maritime mobile service) which furnish interstate or foreign communications service for hire—whether by wire, radio, cable or satellite facilities—and of ancillary operations related to the provisions or use of such services. The Bureau also regulates the rates, terms, and conditions for cable television and pole attachments, where such attachments are not regulated by a state and not provided by railroads or governmentally—or cooperatively owned utilities. The Bureau also

performs the following specific functions:

(FR Doc. 80-33775 Filed 10-28-80; 8:43 am)
BILLING CODE 6712-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 50

Fire Protection Schedules for Operating Nuclear Power Plants

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is amending its regulations to temporarily suspend completion schedules for certain fire protection features in operating nuclear plants pending completion of its ongoing comprehensive fire protection rulemaking. This suspension is necessary because some NRC licensees are unable to meet fire protection implementation deadlines contained in licensed conditions. The Commission has found that fire protection measures already implemented give reasonable assurance of safety, and that no health and safety interest would be served by forcing certain licensees to shut down during the brief period between the license condition deadlines and the effectiveness of the final fire protection rule.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 29, 1980.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Shields, Office of Executive Legal Director, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, phone 301-492-8695.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 29, 1980, the Commission published in the Federal Register (45 FR 36082) a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking entitled "Fire Protection Program for Nuclear Plants Operating Prior to January 1, 1979." The proposed rule provided that all fire protection modifications except alternate or dedicated shutdown capability would be required to be implemented by November 1, 1980, unless the Commission approve an extension for good cause. This deadline was also stated in the Commission's May 27, 1980 Memorandum and Order on the Union of Concerned Scientists Petition for Emergency and Remedial Action. 11 NRC 707, 719.

Many of the commenters on the proposed rule contended that the November 1 deadline was unachievable. Moreover, much more time than was

earlier anticipated has been required to prepare a final rule on fire protection. Although the final rule is near completion, and will incorporate an implementation schedule different from that in the proposed rule, it has not yet been published and in any event would not be effective until 90 days after publication.

Certain NRC licensees, however, are at present operating under license conditions or technical specifications thereto which include the November 1 deadline or other dates which will precede the effective date of the final rule. To the extent that these licensees have been unable to complete all of the fire protection measures to which these deadlines apply, continued operation would violate the license conditions. The violation would extend only until the final rule becomes effective, since the implementation schedule contained in the final rule will supersede inconsistent license conditions.

The Commission has determined, based upon a review of the entire record in this rulemaking, that relief from these license conditions is appropriate pending promulgation of the final rule on fire protection applicable to all NRC licensees. Extensive fire protection measures have already been implemented at all operating plants. The implementation schedule of the final rule will be uniform and comprehensive, and will apply to all operating plants including those with different schedules contained in license conditions. No public health and safety interest would be served by forcing only those licensees unable to meet deadlines preceding the effectiveness of the final rule to shut down for the brief interim. To the contrary, the fire protection measures already implemented give reasonable assurance that all operating nuclear plants may continue to operate safely even though the final rule will require additional fire protection measures at many plants.

The Administrative Procedure Act provides that a rule may be effective upon publication when that rule "grants or recognizes an exception or relieves a restriction." 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1). This rule relieves certain NRC licensees from license conditions or technical specifications thereto in regard to fire protection implementation deadlines, and will therefore be effective upon the date of publication in the Federal Register. Furthermore, as noted above, the proposed rule stated that extensions from the November 1, deadline would be considered for good cause. Extensive public comment was received to the effect that the deadline was unrealistic

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and should be revised. Under these circumstances the Commission believes that there is good cause for an extension of the license condition schedules pending effectiveness of the final rule on fire protection.

The rule provides that all compliance dates contained in license conditions or technical specifications for required fire protection measures are suspended pending further action by the Commission. As is clear from the above discussion, that further action will be promulgation of the final rule on fire protection. The Commission intends that licensees affected by this rule should use best efforts to complete all required measures as soon as possible despite the suspension of the deadlines for this brief period.

Pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended, and Sections 552 and 553 of Title 5 of the United States Code, notice is hereby given that the following amendment to Title 10, Chapter I, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50, is published as a document subject to codification.

PART 50—DOMESTIC LICENSING OF PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION FACILITIES

1. A new Section 50.48 is added to read as follows:

§ 50.48 Fire protection schedules.

To the extent that any facility's license conditions or technical specifications incorporate compliance dates for modifications necessary to provide fire protection features proposed by a licensee and accepted by the NRC staff as satisfying the provisions of Appendix A to Branch Technical Position BTP/APCSB 9.5-1 and reflected in NRC staff Fire Protection Safety Evaluation Reports issued prior to the effective date of this rule, those dates are hereby suspended pending further action by the Commission.

(Sec. 161b, Pub. Law 83-703, 68 Stat. 948; Sec. 201, Pub. Law 93-438, 88 Stat. 1242 [42 U.S.C. 2201(b), 5641])

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 27th day of October 1980.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Samuel C. Chalk,

Secretary of the Commission.

(FT Doc. No. 23844 Filed 10-28-80; 10:14 am)

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