FEB 18 1981

Ms. Judith A. Dorsey
PILCOP
1315 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Ms. Dorsey:

In response to your letter to me dated January 21, 1981 we are providing you the information regarding the current status of the efforts underway or planned to resolve our concerns with the storage of EPICOR-II resins at the Three Mile Island (TMI) facility.

In December 1980, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) and Metropolitan Edison (Met-Ed) personnel met with representatives of EPICOR, Inc. to obtain proprietary information regarding the EPICOR-II liners which were generated at TMI. The information received contributes to the characterization of the ion exchange media in the EPICOR-II liners.

BNL personnel are continuing their radiation stability testing with EPICOR-II resins to determine radiation degradation and corrosion effects and to ascertain any problems which may be associated with solidifying these wastes using conventional low-level waste solidification media.

In addition to the BNL efforts the licensee has prepared a preliminary evaluation of the EPICOR-II liners. This report was provided in Met-Ed letter TLL-634 of December 4, 1980 and is available in the public docket files. In this evaluation the licensee projects that eight of sixty-five liners might be perforated in 15 to 19 months following liner generation and the remainder should last about 25 years.

The meeting with EPICOR personnel, the BNL efforts, and the licensee's liner evaluation have still not resolved all of the NRC staff concerns regarding the stability of the EPICOR-II liner contents and the resulting effects on liner integrity. Because of this, NRC wrote to Met-Ed on January 22, 1981 and requested the licensee to provide its final evaluation of resin stability, plans to further test liners and contents, recommendations to preclude liner leakage and contingency plans in the event leakage does occur.

In addition to providing recommendations and plans to mitigate potential problems with the EPICOR-II liners, the licensee is also planning a sampling test on a loaded liner to determine actual interior conditions.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is also arranging to perform tests on an actual liner at Battelle Columbus Laboratories. The DOE tests will sample and analyze resin material for degradation effects and will assess the extent of liner corrosion. These tests are expected to begin in the spring of 1981.

NRC staff believe that the planned testing programs on the actual liners will provide the best basis for assessing the real condition of the EPICOR-II resins. It should be noted, however, that no adverse effects to workers or to the public are expected from storing EPICOR-II liners in the specially designed staging modules. The storage provisions include substantial containment of the liners and contents and sampling and monitoring of liquids collected in the sump of the storage mudules. In the event that any significant liner degradation should be ascertained during the storage period, mitigating measures can be taken to preclude release of radioactive material which could be a risk to workers or the public.

The above summary of efforts concerning EPICOR-II wastes is provided to indicate the actions being taken to preclude any significant adverse effects from the storage and handling of these wastes.

Sincerely,

Bernard J. Snyder, Program Director
TMI Program Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: S. F. Eilperin

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