

BOSTON EDISON COMPANY
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J. EDWARD HOWARD
VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR

September 22, 1981

BECo. Ltr. #81-223

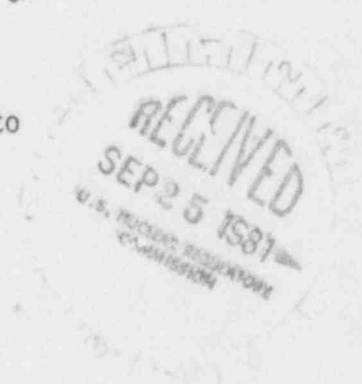
Proposed Change No. 81-05

Mr. Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

License No. DPR-35
Docket No. 50-293

Technical Specification Change Concerning
Central Controlled Cell Removal

- Reference: (a) Boston Edison letter of November 21, 1979, to Mr. Thomas A. Ippolito (BECo Ltr. #79-235)
- (b) Boston Edison letter of December 7, 1979, to Mr. Thomas A. Ippolito (BECo Ltr. #79-262)
- (c) NRC letter February 22, 1980 to Boston Edison (#1.80.068)
- (d) Boston Edison Letter of Sept. 1, 1981, to Mr. Thomas A. Ippolito (BECo Ltr. #81-211)



Dear Sir:

Introduction

Pursuant to Section 50.90 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, Boston Edison Company hereby proposes the following modification to Appendix A of Operating License No. DPR-35.

Proposed Change

Section 3.10 B., "Core Monitoring" of the Bases, Page 204A, Paragraph 3 currently states:

A spiral unloading pattern is one by which the fuel is in the outermost cells (four fuel bundles surrounding a control blade) is removed first. Unloading continues by removing the remaining outermost fuel cell by cell. The center cell will be the last removed. Spiral loading is the reverse of unloading.

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Mr. Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
September 22, 1981
Page 2

Spiral unloading and reloading will preclude the creation of flux traps (moderator filled cavities surrounded on all sides by fuel).

The desired change would consist of adding a footnote to the Technical Specification that would allow the removal of the central controlled cell first. This change would exist only for the 1981 refueling outage scheduled to commence September, 1981.

The footnote shall state:

During the 1981 refueling outage, prior to initiating spiral unloading, the central controlled cell will be removed to facilitate inspection of the Core Spray Spargers.

This footnote shall be preceded by (1), and will be denoted in the existing Technical Specification thus:

The center cell will be the last removed. (1)

Reason for Change

In Reference (d), Boston Edison committed to perform a more in depth inspection of the Core Spray Spargers during the 1981 refueling outage.

During this refueling outage, Boston Edison plans to unload the entire core. We wish to unload the center cell first to allow the mounting of the equipment necessary to perform the inspection. By so doing, the inspection can be performed prior to the full core unloading. This will provide us with an earlier indication of the Core Spray Sparger's condition, allow us more time to develop and implement any repairs indicated by the inspection, and reduce the potential impact of the Core Spray Spargers on the duration of refueling outage.

Safety Considerations

A Safety Evaluation has been performed and has determined that the desired change does not represent an unreviewed safety question as defined in 10 CFR, Part 50.59(c). Further discussion of the methodology used in the determination that removal of the central controlled cell during cold shutdown conditions leads to a less reactive state can be found in Reference (b). The NRC safety evaluation of this analysis was documented in Amendment 41 to the Pilgrim Operating License dated February 22, 1980. (Reference (c)). These changes have been reviewed and approved by the Operations Review Committee and the Nuclear Safety Review and Audit Committee.

Schedule of Change

Boston Edison Company intends to perform this inspection during the September, 1981 refueling outage, whose duration could be minimized by use of this Technical Specification Change. Therefore, Boston Edison would like this proposed Technical Specification Change to be effective upon NRC approval.

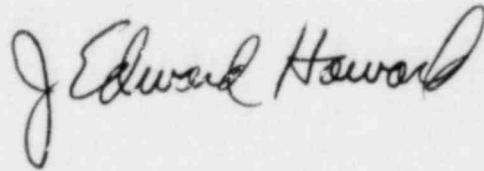
Mr. Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
September 22, 1981
Page 3

Fee Consideration

In accordance with Section 170.12 of the Commission's Regulations, Boston Edison proposes this license change as Class III. Accordingly a check for Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

3 signed originals and 37 copies



Commonwealth of Massachusetts)
County of Suffolk)

Then personally appeared before me J. Edward Howard, who, being duly sworn, did state that he is Vice President - Nuclear of Boston Edison Company, the applicant herein, and that he is duly authorized to execute and file the submittal contained herein in the name and on behalf of Boston Edison Company and that the statements in said submittal are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

My Commission expires: July 6, 1984

Dorothy M. Lopez
Notary Public

Attachments