

**Detroit  
Edison**

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NRC-90-0078

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D. C. 20555

- References: 1) Fermi 2  
NRC Docket No. 50-341  
NRC License No. NPF-43
- 2) NRC Bulletin 90-02, "Loss of Thermal Margin  
Caused by Channel Box Bow"

Subject: Detroit Edison Response to NRC Bulletin 90-02,  
"Loss of Thermal Margin Caused By Channel Box Bow"

Detroit Edison has reviewed NRC Bulletin 90-02 (Reference 2) which was received on March 26, 1990. This bulletin requested us to determine whether any channel boxes are being re-used after their first bundle lifetime and, if so, to ensure that the effects of channel box bow on the critical power ratio (CPR) calculation are properly taken into account.

In response to this bulletin, it is has been determined that fuel channel boxes will not be used after the first bundle lifetime. Currently all channel boxes in the core are in their first bundle lifetime. Therefore, further review of the CPR with respect to technical specification operating and safety limits is not required.

In addition, no CPR penalty associated with channel bow is being taken in Cycle 2 (the current cycle). However, Cycle 3 will account for the effects of channel bowing using General Electric methodology which is expected to be approved before the next cycle.

If there are any questions, please contact John Tibai at (313) 586-4289.

Sincerely,

*B. Ralph Sylvia*

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