

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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USNRC

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BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING APPEAL BOARD

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
DOCKETING & SERVICE  
BRANCH

In the Matter of )  
 )  
METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY ) Docket No. 50-289  
 )  
(Three Mile Island Nuclear )  
Station, Unit 1) )

MOTION TO SUSPEND BRIEFING ON TMIA'S EXCEPTIONS

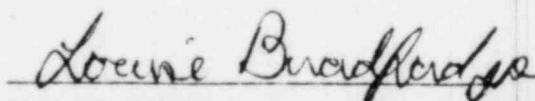
On October 26, 1981, TMIA filed exceptions with the Appeal Board in the above-captioned proceeding on the Licensing Board's treatment of TMIA Contention 5- safety-related maintenance practices at TMI-1. See exceptions 20-55. On August 13, 1982, the NRC Staff submitted a Board Notification to all parties in the TMI-1 restart proceeding, in which the Staff indicated that safety-related maintenance practices were deficient at TMI-2, and that an investigation into safety-related maintenance practices at TMI-1 was warranted, and would be conducted.

The results of this investigation would obviously be highly relevant to the Appeal Board's resolution of the issues presented in TMIA Contention 5. In finding Licensee maintenance practices sufficient to support restart, the Licensing Board relied heavily on the NRC Staff's satisfaction with current maintenance practices at TMI-1. Both TMI-1 and TMI-2 are managed by the same corporate officers. One can reasonably assume that changes made to TMI-1's maintenance department as a result of the Commission's August 9,

1979 Order, 19 NRC 141 (1979) were meant to correct recognized failures of the maintenance department, and that such changes were also made to TMI-2's department, with which it had previously been combined. Thus, if maintenance practices at TMI-2 have now proven to be inadequate to insure safety, then the same would probably be true at TMI-1. TMIA believes that it is very likely this investigation will reveal new evidence to not only contravert the Board's findings and conclusions, but could change the staff position on the adequacy of current maintenance practices, thus substantially weakening support for the Board's decision. The Appeal Board would have to consider this new evidence.

In such circumstances, TMIA believes little purpose would be served by briefing exceptions 20-55 at this time. Accordingly, TMIA requests the Appeal Board to suspend briefing on these exceptions, until after such time as the staff investigation is complete, and its report is made available to the parties.

Respectfully submitted,



Louise Bradford

Dated: September 1, 1982