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December 28, 1990 NRC-90-0186

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. NFF-43

2) Detroit Edison letter to NRC, "Response To Diagnostic Evaluation Team Report," NRC-89-0004, dated January 17, 1989

Subject:

Update of Simulator Upgrade Project Schedule

Detroit Edison has recently completed an in-depth review of progress against the simulator upgrade project schedule. This project was undertaken to upgrade the existing Fermi 2 simulator to comply with new provisions of 10 CFR 55 "Operator Licenses" that were issued in May 1987.

This review of the simulator upgrade project schedule status and remaining work scope, indicates that the simulator certification milestone will not be completed by March 26, 1991 as originally planned. The primary reason this milestone will not be met is that the simulator upgrade vendor has been unable to meet the critical milestone of model and hardware integration, in spite of concerted effort to recover lost progress.

In conjunction with the vendor, Detroit Edison is conducting a detailed review of vendor task completion plans, including scheduled control milestones. Upon completion of this effort, a definitive revised schedule will be available and form the basis for determining the new date for certification of the Fermi 2 Simulator.

Because the certification date is a requirement of 10 CFR 55.45(b)(2)(iii), Detroit Edison intends to submit an exemption request in accordance with 10CFR50.12 "Specific Exemptions" in January 1991. The request will ask that Detroit Edison be allowed to provide the required certification to the NRC later in 1991, with appropriate justification, and will address any potential impact on licensed operator examinations scheduled in 1991.

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In our response to the NRC Diagnostic Evaluation Team report, Detroit Edison provided the schedule for the simulator upgrade project (Reference 2). One of the milestones provided with the schedule involves hardware and software integration. This letter is notification that the integration milestone will not be met. The new date for integration will be provided in the exemption request.

If there any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Lewis P. Bregni at (313) 586-4072.

Sincerely,

cc: A. B. Davis

R. W. DeFayette

W. G. Rogers

J. F. Stang

Mellin