



File

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC STAFF PROPOSES FINING THE METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY \$9,000 FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF NRC AND U.S. DOT RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed fining the Metropolitan Edison Company a total of \$9,000 for alleged violations of NRC and U.S. Department of Transportation regulations applying to the shipment of radioactive materials. Metropolitan Edison Company is the part-owner and operator of the Three Mile Island nuclear power station near Middletown, Pennsylvania.

The alleged violations, all involving the improper packaging of radioactive materials for transit, occurred in February, March and June of 1980.

U.S. Department of Transportation regulations require liquid radioactive materials to be shipped in authorized outer containers and in inner containers that are leak-resistant.

On February 6 and again on March 6, samples of radioactive liquid were shipped from Three Mile Island in outer containers not approved for transporting liquids. In addition, the inner vessels leaked during shipment, demonstrating that they were not leak-resistant.

On June 6, solid radioactive waste material was shipped from Three Mile Island in drums that were not tightly closed, a violation of U.S. DOT regulations. On June 10, when inspected at a waste burial facility in Richland, Washington, locking rings which fasten the lids on the drums were found to be loose on four of the 126 drums in the shipment.

None of the three incidents resulted in radioactive contamination of the external surfaces of the shipping containers or of the vehicles in which the materials were shipped.

In each of the two cases involving the shipment of improperly packaged radioactive liquids, the NRC staff has proposed a \$4,000

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fine. In the third case, involving the shipment of improperly closed drums of solid radioactive waste, the staff has proposed a \$1,000 fine.

The company has 25 days to pay the proposed fine or protest in writing all or part of it. The company also has 25 days to respond in writing to the NRC to describe the steps that have been taken and will be taken to prevent a recurrence of these events.

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