

NOV 19 1979

Docket No. 50-320

Mr. R. C. Arnold
Senior Vice President
Metropolitan Edison Company
Post Office Box 480
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Dear Mr. Arnold:

There have been several discussions between MET-ED staff and the NRC staff concerning the timeliness of opening Decay Heat Valves (DHV) number 1 and 171. Due to the increasing water level in the reactor building it will be necessary to open these valves prior to submergence of any portion of their prime mover mechanisms which have the potential, when submerged, to inhibit the operability of the valves. It is recognized by both staffs that opening of DHV-1 and DHV-171 will cause primary coolant contaminants to migrate to DHV-3 which could result in higher than necessary radiation exposures to workers in the area. Furthermore, Megger readings routinely being taken on the motor operator continue to be satisfactory with no apparent degradation, water level in containment is rising at a slow enough rate providing several months before any action need be taken, and the quality of the equipment is such that there is reasonable assurance that the operability of the valves will not be impaired by the existing environment.

Based on the above, we conclude that premature opening of DHV-1 and DHV-171, unless technically justified, would not be consistent with the ALARA principles associated with the maintenance being performed in the area of DHV-3.

Sincerely,

John T. Collins
Deputy Director
TMI Support

cc:
See next page

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PDR ADOCK 05000320
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TMI	TMI
	rj
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Ms. Mary V. Southard, Chairperson, Citizens for a Safe Environment