Mr. Douglas R. Gipson
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation
Detroit Edison Company
6400 North Dixie Highway
Newport, Michigan 48166

July 8, 1996

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - GENERIC LETTER 95-07, "PRESSURE LOCKING AND THERMAL BINDING OF SAFETY-RELATED POWER-OPERATED GATE VALVES," FERMI 2 (TAC NO. M93463)

Dear Mr. Gipson:

On August 17, 1995, the NRC issued Generic Letter (GL) 95-07, "Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Safety-Related Power-Operated Gate Valves," to request that licensees take actions to ensure that safety-related power-operated gate valves that are susceptible to pressure locking or thermal binding are capable of performing their safety functions. The NRC staff is reviewing and evaluating your response to GL 95-07. Additional information, as discussed in the enclosure, is requested in order for the staff to complete its review. We request that you respond within 30 days.

The information requested by this letter is within the scope of the overall burden estimated in Generic Letter 95-07, "Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Safety-Related Power-Operated Gate Valves," which was a maximum of 75 hours per response. This request is covered by Office of Management and Budget Clearance Number 3150-0011, which expires July 31, 1997.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Andrew J. Kugler, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket No. 50-341

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
FERMI 2, RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 95-07, "PRESSURE LOCKING AND THERMAL BINDING OF SAFETY-RELATED POWER-OPERATED GATE VALVES"

1. The February 13, 1996, submittal by Detroit Edison states that a calculation has been performed for valve E4150F001, HPCI [high pressure coolant injection] turbine steam admission, which demonstrates the added load due to stem expansion is still within available operator capability. Please provide this calculation for our review. In addition, has any evaluation or testing been performed to determine the effect of the valve body contracting against the valve disk during cooldown causing potential thermal binding? If so, please provide this evaluation or test results.

2. In Attachment 1 to GL 95-07, the NRC staff requested that licensees include consideration of the potential for gate valves to undergo pressure locking or thermal binding during surveillance testing. During workshops on GL 95-07 in each Region, the NRC staff stated that, if closing a safety-related power-operated gate valve for test or surveillance defeats the capability of the safety system or train, the licensee should perform one of the following within the scope of GL 95-07:

a. Verify that the valve is not susceptible to pressure locking or thermal binding while closed,
b. Follow plant technical specifications for the train/system while the valve is closed,
c. Demonstrate that the actuator has sufficient capacity to overcome these phenomena, or
d. Make appropriate hardware and/or procedural modifications to prevent pressure locking and thermal binding.

The staff stated that normally open, safety-related power-operated gate valves which are closed for test or surveillance but must return to the open position should be evaluated within the scope of GL 95-07. Please discuss if valves which meet this criterion were included in your review, and how potential pressure-locking or thermal-binding concerns were addressed.

3. Through review of operational experience feedback, the staff is aware of instances where licensees have completed design or procedural modifications to preclude pressure locking or thermal binding which may have had an adverse impact on plant safety due to incomplete or incorrect evaluation of the potential effects of these modifications. Please describe in general terms the evaluations you performed and the training for plant personnel that you have conducted for each design or procedural modification completed to address potential pressure-locking or thermal-binding concerns.

ENCLOSURE

cc:

John Flynn, Esquire
Senior Attorney
Detroit Edison Company
2000 Second Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Drinking Water and Radiological
Protection Division
Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality
3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
P. O. Box 30630 CPH Mailroom
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8130

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Resident Inspector's Office
6450 W. Dixie Highway
Newport, Michigan 48166

Monroe County Emergency Management
Division
963 South Raisinville
Monroe, Michigan 48161

Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Ms. Lynne S. Goodman
Director - Nuclear Licensing
Detroit Edison Company
Fermi-2
6400 North Dixie Highway
Newport, Michigan 48166