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MAR 27 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: D. F. Ross, Jr., Acting Director, Division of Project Management

FROM: P. F. Collins, Chief, Operator Licensing Branch, Division of Project Management

THRU: D. J. Skovholt, Assistant Director, Quality Assurance and Operations, Division of Project Management

SUBJECT: OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS AT TMI-1

As part of the NRC Order dated August 9, 1979, we have required all TMI-1 licensed personnel to receive augmented training and undergo reexamination. We have intended to administer these examinations in accordance with the time sequence established for cold (precritical) facilities. Normally, for these facilities, we schedule the written examination six weeks prior to the projected fuel loading date and the operating test two weeks prior to the projected fuel loading date. Accordingly, when the TMI-1 restart date was projected as June 1, 1980, we agreed to conduct written examinations during the week of April 28, 1980 and operating tests during May.

We have since reviewed the TMI-1 restart schedule and have determined that the startup date will extend well beyond June 1, 1980. In fact, Met-Ed feels a January 1, 1981 startup date is optimistic. Additionally, some facility design changes have not been installed and many emergency procedures require further revision. Long term Emergency Plan requirements have also not been implemented. Therefore, conduct of the reexaminations at TMI-1 at this time appears to be premature. We feel that a more appropriate examination and a more effective use of manpower would be achieved by postponing the examinations until a firm startup date can be determined. This postponement will also preclude the need for a second set of examinations should the restart of TMI-1 be delayed considerably.

We intend to notify Met-Ed of our decision to postpone the TMI-1 reexaminations indefinitely, pending determination of a firm TMI-1 restart date. The written and oral examinations will be scheduled six and two weeks, respectively, prior to this date. We expect Met-Ed management to contest our decision, based primarily on personnel concerns. Met-Ed has previously indicated that morale problems would develop if the examinations were not given in the near future. We have been led to believe, however, that morale would not be adversely affected. This is because operating personnel

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feel that a second examination would be necessary due to a prolonged shutdown. Most operators prefer to take only one examination, scheduled close to the expected restart date.

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of our reasons for deciding to postpone the TMI-1 examinations and the potential for further discussion with Met-Ed on the subject. Please advise if you desire further clarification.

Paul F. Collins, Chief
Operator Licensing Branch
Division of Project Management

cc: S. Hanauer
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