

TEEA

MAR 16 1981

Docket No. 50-350



Mr. Earl A. Borgmann  
Vice President - Engineering  
Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company  
Post Office Box 960  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201

Dear Mr. Borgmann:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - W. H. ZIMMER, UNIT 1  
(HYDROGEN CONTROL)

The accident at Three Mile Island, Unit 2 involved a large amount of metal-water reaction in the core with resulting hydrogen generation well in excess of the amounts considered in 10 CFR 50.44 of the Commission's regulations. During the past year the staff has been studying the potential of excess hydrogen generation, the effects such concentrations of hydrogen would have on the various types of plants, and the effectiveness of various mitigation systems in protecting the plant against such situations. The results of our studies to date are presented in the SECY 80-107 series of documents. In these reports, we recommend that all BWR Mark I and II Containment plants be inerted and the owners of all other plants be required to provide a proposed design (or designs) to mitigate the consequences of large amounts of hydrogen in containment. The associated proposed interim rule was published in The Federal Register on October 2, 1980.

Subsequent to the issuance of SECY 80-107, a substantial amount of additional work has been performed on this issue with emphasis on ice condensers. With respect to ice condensers, and specifically Sequoyah, the Commission has decided that the matter of hydrogen control for degraded core accidents in plants with small containments needs to be resolved in the near term, i.e., the resolution should not be deferred to rulemaking.

In a telecon on February 10, 1981, we informed you of the staff position and understood that a commitment to inert the Zimmer containment would be filed.

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Earl A. Borgmann

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Since we have not yet received such a filing and since the schedule for concluding our review is very tight, we request that you give this matter your attention.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
~~Robert L. Tedesco~~

Robert L. Tedesco, Assistant Director  
for Licensing  
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

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