

50-289



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 30, 1998

MEMORANDUM TO: File

FROM: Timothy G. Colburn, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Handwritten signature/initials

SUBJECT: THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 1 (TMI-1) HPI
CROSS-CONNECT ISSUE (TAC NO. MA1607)

This TAC number was originally opened to respond to a senior resident inspector (SRI) question regarding a generic NRC safety evaluation (SE) dated November 14, 1997. The SE evaluated the potential for common-cause high pressure injection (HPI) pump failure at B&W plants and was in response to the May 1997 Oconee event which damaged two of three HPI pumps. The reason for the common-cause pump damage was, in part, the lack of separation in the Oconee HPI system. The B&W Owner's Group had provided the NRC with information that no other B&W plants operated with HPI suction cross-connected. The staff then issued its SE closing this issue in November 1997. During the 12R refueling outage (fall 1997) TMI-1 cross-connected its HPI pump suction in order to respond to concerns documented in LERs 97-003, Rev. 0 dated March 26, 1997, and 97-003, Rev. 1 dated September 29, 1997. The licensee performed a review pursuant to 10 CFR 50.59, and included a discussion of the events related to the Oconee failures as the licensee believed they affected this proposed action. The licensee concluded that no unreviewed safety question (USQ) existed and proceeded with the change.

The licensee then had opportunity to review the staff's August 1997 SE and noted that as a result of changes they made under 10 CFR 50.59 to cross-connect the HPI suction, that the statement made that no other B&W plants ran with HPI suction cross-connected was inaccurate. The licensee then contacted the senior resident inspector (SRI) and asked if this posed a problem and the SRI then contacted the project manager who posed the question to the technical staff and asked if this new information changed the findings in the August 1997 SE with respect to TMI. During the course of the staff's review, the SRI treated this issue as an open item in his inspection report. The licensee provided additional information to the staff regarding staff concerns by letter dated July 17, 1998. The staff provided its safety evaluation documenting its concerns that the licensee's change constituted a USQ by memo dated August 25, 1998, from T. Collins, Chief, Reactor Systems Branch, to C. Thomas, Director, Project Directorate I-3. During this time, the Region was conducting a followup inspection to the 1996/1997 Architect Engineering inspection (inspection report 50-289/96-201). The Region identified an additional concern that could be identified as a USQ related to the licensee's modification. During telephone conversations with the Region, the NRC headquarters technical and projects staffs and Office of Enforcement agreed that the technical staff's concerns should be included in the inspection report scope and related notice of violation (NOV) and forwarded to the licensee. This was done with the issuance of inspection report 50-289/98-06 and NOV on October 15, 1998.

Handwritten notes: 1/0 and d to 1

9812030082 981130
PDR ADOCK 05000289
P PDR

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

Any further followup by the technical staff is anticipated to be in response to a Region I TIA related to the licensee's response (if such a TIA were requested) or to a licensee request for amendment to resolve the 10 CFR 50.59 violation cited in the NOV. On this basis I am closing TAC No. MA1607. If a TIA is issued or amendment requested as stated above, a new TAC will be issued.

Docket No. 50-269

DISTRIBUTION:

Docket File CThomas TClark TCollins PEselgroth
PDI-3 Reading TColburn CJackson EWeiss PUBLIC

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\COLBURN\MA1607.mtf

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	PDI-3/PM	PDI-3/LA	PDI-3/D	SRXB
NAME	TColburn	TClark	CThomas	TCollins
DATE	11/24/98	11/26/98	11/23/98	11/24/98

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

#133