

50-289

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FROM: METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY  
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R C ARNOLD

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## DESCRIPTION

LTR, REPORTING RO 50-289/76-06/IT ON 2-4-76.....  
 INOPERABLE REACTOR COOLANT LEAK DETECTION  
 SYSTEM (RADIOACTIVITY SENSITIVE)...ALSO,  
 FAILURE TO TAKE SAMPLES & ANALYZED AS REQUIRED  
 BY TECH SPEC.....

## ENCLOSURE

POOR ORIGINAL

PLANT NAME: THREE MILE ISLAND #1

NOTE: IF PERSONNEL EXPOSURE IS INVOLVED  
SEND DIRECTLY TO KREGER/J. COLLINS

## SAFETY

## FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

## ENVIRO

2-19-76 RKB

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**1511**  
**1490 071**



METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY SUBSIDIARY OF GENERAL PUBLIC UTILITIES CORPORATION

POST OFFICE BOX 542 READING, PENNSYLVANIA 19603

TELEPHONE 215 - 929-3601

February 13, 1976  
GQL 0211

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

DOCKET NO. 50-289  
OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-50



Dear Sir:

In accordance with the Technical Specifications of our Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 1 (TMI-1), we are reporting the following reportable occurrence.

- (1) Report Number: ER 76-06/IT
- (2a) Report Date: February 13, 1976
- (2b) Event Date: February 4, 1976.
- (3) Facility: Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 1
- (4) Identification of Event:

Title: Inoperable Reactor Coolant Leak Detection  
System (Radioactivity Sensitive)

Type: An abnormal occurrence as defined by the Technical Specifications, paragraphs 1.8b&g, in that a Reactor Coolant Leak Detection System sensitive to radioactivity was not in service nor were samples of the Reactor Building atmosphere taken and analyzed every eight(8) hours, which constitutes a violation of Technical Specification 3.1.6.7

- (5) Conditions Prior to Event:

Power: Core: 100%  
Elec.: 850 MW(Gross)

RC Flow:  $139 \times 10^6$  lbs./hr.  
RC Pressure: 216<sup>4</sup> psig  
RC Temp.: 579<sup>0</sup> F  
Przr Level: 242 inches  
Przr Temp.: 655<sup>0</sup> F

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(6) Description of Event:

At 0100 hours on February 4, 1976, an inspection of the moving filter paper in the particulate monitor of the Reactor Building Atmosphere Monitor (RM-A2) was performed by a Radiation Protection Technician. Upon completion of the inspection, the technician inadvertently left the particulate monitor cover plate ajar, allowing outside air, rather than Reactor Building air, to be drawn through the monitor. At 2300 hours, inspection of the monitor by the Shift Foreman revealed the cover plate to be out of position. The cover plate was placed in its proper position and samples were taken to verify the monitor response.

As a result of this occurrence, between the hours of 0100 and 2300 of February 4, 1976, a Leak Detector System based on sensitivity to radioactivity was not in service nor were samples of the Reactor Building Atmosphere taken and analyzed every eight (8) hours as required by Technical Specification 3.1.6.7.

(7) Designation of Apparent Cause of Event:

The cause of this event has been determined to be procedure in that specific procedures detailing the removal, replacement and need for an effective monitor cover plate seal did not exist.

(8) Analysis of Event:

It has been determined that this event did not constitute a threat to the health and safety of the public in that:

- a. During the twenty-two (22) hour period in which the Reactor Building Atmosphere Monitor was not operable, two (2) additional leak detection systems operating on different principles were operable.
- b. Although the required eight (8) hours samples were not obtained and analyzed, changes in primary system leakage would have been detected by the two (2) alternate leak detection systems.

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(9) Corrective Action:

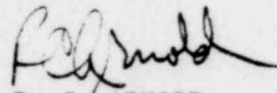
In addition to the immediate corrective action described above, procedural changes will be implemented to provide guidance for the removal and replacement of the particulate monitor cover plate and methods to determine the effectiveness of the cover plate seal.

The Plant Operations Review Committee and Station Superintendent have reviewed and approved the above corrective action and have taken steps to assure its completion.

(10) Failure Data: N/A

Similar Events: ER 76-03/10

Sincerely,



R. C. ARNOLD  
VICE PRESIDENT

RCA:JMC:rk

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