

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

3-13-68

In the Matter of
METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY
Three Mile Island Nuclear Station
Unit No. 1

Docket No. 50-289

ANSWER OF THE APPLICANT

TO THE AEC'S REGULATORY STAFF'S

MOTION FOR POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING

1. On March 12, 1968, the AEC Regulatory Staff filed with the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board a motion for the postponement of the public hearing in this matter which had been scheduled for April 10, 1968, pursuant to the Order of the Board, issued February 13, 1968.

2. The Regulatory Staff has requested that the public hearing be postponed to April 25, 1968.

3. The Applicant proposes to file its prepared testimony in this proceeding on March 19, 1968. That testimony will deal with all matters relevant to the issues set forth in the Notice of Hearing issued on January 24, 1968, and published in the Federal Register on January 27, 1968 (33 F.R. 1082), except with respect to the possibility of an airplane hitting the Three Mile Island Station while arriving at, or departing from, Olmsted State Airport and the capability of the station to safely withstand such an unlikely event. The latter matters are described in Applicant's Amendments 8 and 9 which were filed on February 26 and March 6, 1968, and will be discussed in supplemental prepared testimony which

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will be filed with the Board on approximately April 15, 1968.

4. The Applicant filed its application on May 3, 1967, for a construction permit and operating license relating to its proposed Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 1. The Three Mile Island Station is scheduled for commercial operation on May 1, 1971. The availability of the station on May 1, 1971, is required to assure that Applicant will have sufficient plant capacity to meet its requirements and those of the General Public Utilities system and those of the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland (PJM) pool with which the Applicant is associated. To meet such schedule, the Applicant must commence construction of the station, pursuant to an AEC construction permit, as close to May 1, 1968, as is reasonably possible.

5. While the Applicant consents to the granting of the AEC's Regulatory Staff's Motion for Postponement, Applicant urges that the public hearing commence no later than April 25, 1968, to permit reasonable adherence to the construction schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

SHAW, PITTMAN, POTTS
TROWBRIDGE & MADDEN

By

Gerald Charnoff
Counsel for Metropolitan
Edison Company

Dated: March 13, 1968

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