



Metropolitan Edison Company  
Post Office Box 542  
Reading Pennsylvania 19640  
215 929-3601

Writer's Direct Dial Number

August 27, 1979  
GQL 1097

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Attn: R. W. Reid, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch No. 4  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1)  
Operating License No. DPR-50  
Docket No. 50-289  
Fire Protection Program

Fire Protection Safety Evaluation Report (FPSE) Item 3.1.11, Fire Barriers at Reactor Building Emergency Cooling Valves, requires that fire barriers be installed to prevent loss of function of the Reactor Building emergency cooling valves (RR-V4A through D) in the event of a fire in the area of the valves. The location of these valves is shown in the TMI-1 Fire Hazards Analysis (FHA) on Drawing E-023-004 Rev. 1. Met-Ed has reviewed the existing and proposed fire protection for this area and has concluded that the barriers required by FPSE Item 3.1.11 are not necessary. This conclusion is based on the following:

1. The TMI-1 FHA indicates that RR-V4A through D are required for safe shutdown, which is incorrect. If a fire occurs in this area which would cause a loss of function of these valves, the plant can still achieve safe shutdown while using the normal reactor building cooling system.
2. A fire detection system is to be installed which will provide early warning of a fire in the area. See Drawing E-313-506 Rev. 1A-BB, submitted with our letter of March 16, 1979 (GQL 0393), for the location of detectors proposed for this area.

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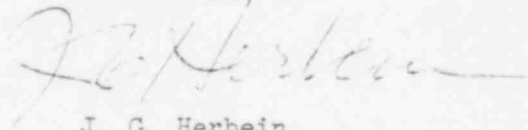
R. W. REID

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Based on the above, Met-Ed seeks NRC concurrence with our conclusion that further protection for these valves as outlined by Item 3.1.11 of the TMI-1 FPSER is unnecessary.

Sincerely,



J. G. Herbein  
Vice President  
Nuclear Operations

JGH:WSS:mrn

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