



April 29, 1983  
L-83-274

Mr. James P. O'Reilly  
Regional Administrator, Region II  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
101 Marietta Street, Suite 2900  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

RE: St. Lucie - Unit #2  
Docket No. 50-389, 10CFR50.55(e), 83-011  
M. I. CABLE FAILURES

On March 30, 1983, FP&L informed NRC, RII of a potential 10CFR50.55(e) condition dealing with mineral insulated cables. Attached please find our final report on this item.

Very truly yours,

Robert E. Uhrig  
Vice President  
Advanced Systems and Technology

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10 CFR 50.55(e) REPORT  
MI CABLE FAILURES

I. Summary

As a result of installation testing, loss of continuity was thought to exist in 32 mineral insulated (MI) cable assemblies. The deficiencies were attributed to either defective connectors or discontinuities between the connectors and cables. MI cables are used for the core exit thermocouples and reactor vessel water level instrumentation. Since signals from this instrumentation are not required for safe operation of the plant, these deficiencies are not reportable according to the criteria of 10 CFR 50.55(e).

II Description

MI cables are used to transmit signals from the above instrumentation, located in the reactor vessel, to the containment building boundary. As part of the installation procedure, each cable is tested for continuity and insulation resistance. Of 32 cables thought to be deficient and returned to the vendor, nine were found to be acceptable by the vendor and returned to St. Lucie Unit 2. The remaining 23 cable assemblies were found to have defective connectors or discontinuities in the cable-connector interface.

III. Corrective Action

The 23 defective cable assemblies were repaired by the vendor and returned to St. Lucie Unit 2.

IV. Safety Implication

As a result of planned post-installation testing procedures, it is highly unlikely that the plant startup would have been initiated without having discovered the defective cable assemblies. Nonetheless, safe plant operation does not depend on core exit thermocouple and reactor vessel water level information.

V. Conclusions

The MI cable deficiencies are not reportable according to the criteria of 10 CFR 50.55(e).

This report is final and completes requirements for reporting to the NRC.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE COMMISSION

In the Matter of

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY, ET AL. }

(Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, }  
Unit No. 1) }

Docket No. 50-289  
(Restart)

NRC STAFF'S ANSWER TO MARVIN I. LEWIS'  
REQUEST FOR RELIEF CONCERNING LEAK RATE ISSUE

Jack R. Goldberg  
Counsel for NRC Staff

May 9, 1983

Mary E. Wagner  
Counsel for NRC Staff

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE COMMISSION

In the Matter of

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY, ET AL. }

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NRC STAFF'S ANSWER TO MARVIN I. LEWIS'  
REQUEST FOR RELIEF CONCERNING LEAK RATE ISSUE

I. INTRODUCTION

On April 18, 1983, Marvin I. Lewis filed with the Commission a "Request for Relief Concerning Leak Rate Issue." Mr. Lewis asserts that the GPU v. B&W trial record contains significant information on the issue of "falsification of leak rate calculations." Mr. Lewis expresses "concern that TMI #1 will restart with the very same management and operators that were involved in the criminal falsification of leak data prior to the accident on 3-29-79."<sup>1/</sup> Based on the above assertion and expression of concern, Mr. Lewis requests the Commission to delay its decision on the restart of TMI-1 until all criminal investigations by the Department of Justice ("DOJ") into the Hartman allegations concerning the falsification of leak rate data are concluded and

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<sup>1/</sup> To date no one has been indicted or convicted of any crime involving the falsification of leak rate data.

released to the parties to this proceeding. The NRC Staff's recommendation with regard to Mr. Lewis' request follows.<sup>2/</sup>

## II. DISCUSSION

Mr. Lewis' concern over the restart of TMI-1 is based on his unsupported speculation about the makeup of the TMI-1 operations and management organization. The Staff currently is taking action directed specifically to the concern expressed by Mr. Lewis on which his request for relief is premised. The Staff recently advised the Commission that it was taking actions to ensure that the Hartman allegations do not present any health and safety concerns which require resolution before restart. NRC Staff Comments on the Analysis of GPU v. B&W Transcript, April 18, 1983. The Staff stated:

The Hartman allegations, among other things, touch upon the competence and integrity of TMI management. Thus, to insure that these allegations do not present health and safety concerns which require resolution prior to restart, the Staff is initiating actions to revalidate the NRC Staff position, supporting TMI-1 restart, on the management integrity issue. These actions include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the steps GPU has taken to insure adherence to station operating procedures and a review of current TMI-1 personnel and their current responsibilities vis-a-vis their responsibilities during the time frame of the Hartman allegations.

Id. at 4 (emphasis added).

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<sup>2/</sup> Mr. Lewis is not a party to the management or cheating phase of the restart proceeding. The Licensing Board ruled that Mr. Lewis lacked standing in the restart proceeding but, in its discretion, allowed Mr. Lewis to intervene solely with respect to the adequacy of the TMI-1 filter system for radioactive effluents - an issue unrelated to the management and cheating issues. See Metropolitan Edison Co., et al. (Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1), 14 NRC 381, 392, ¶ 16, n.4 (1981) (Management PID). Mr. Lewis therefore does not have standing to request the Commission to defer its immediate effectiveness decision because of his concerns over matters relating to management issues, and his request could be dismissed on the basis of lack of standing alone.

Thus, one of the focuses of the revalidation effort is to determine what personnel are now at TMI-1 who were at TMI-2 at the time of the Hartman allegations, and whether there are procedures now in place that would prevent any incidents similar to the alleged falsification of leak rate data. The Staff is currently conducting a review of existing personnel at TMI-1 and in the GPU corporate management and support structure vis-a-vis their positions prior to the TMI-2 accident. The objective of the review is to identify those individuals now involved with the TMI-1 management, support and operating organizations who may have had some involvement with the alleged leak rate data falsification and whose assignment in the present TMI-1 organization could raise possible questions regarding the integrity of TMI-1 organizations and personnel.

The Staff expects its revalidation efforts to be completed within the next seven days and promptly will advise the Commission of its results.<sup>3/</sup> It is the Staff's view that the Commission's consideration of Mr. Lewis' request would benefit from the results of the Staff's revalidation efforts.

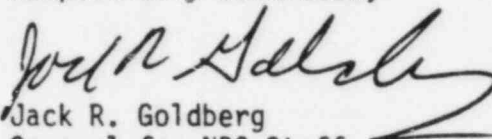
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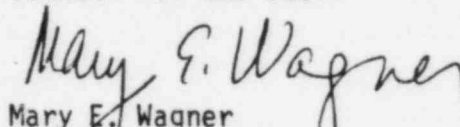
<sup>3/</sup> A full report on the matter of management and operations personnel, now assigned to TMI-1, who worked at TMI-2 at the time of the alleged leak rate data falsification, will be included in the NRC Staff's report on its revalidation efforts.

III. CONCLUSION

The NRC Staff respectfully recommends that the Commission defer consideration of Mr. Lewis' request until it has the benefit of information relevant to Mr. Lewis concerns to be provided as a result of the Staff's revalidation efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jack R. Goldberg  
Counsel for NRC Staff

  
Mary E. Wagner  
Counsel for NRC Staff

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland  
this 9th day of May, 1983

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE COMMISSION

In the Matter of )  
METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY, ET AL. )  
(Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, )  
Unit No. 1) )

Docket No. 50-289  
(Restart)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of "NRC STAFF'S ANSWER TO MARVIN I. LEWIS' REQUEST FOR RELIEF CONCERNING LEAK RATE ISSUE" in the above-captioned proceeding have been served on the following by deposit in the United States mail, first class, or, as indicated by an asterisk, by deposit in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's internal mail system, this 9th day of May 1983:

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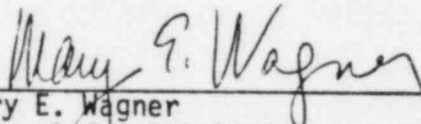
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