



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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FEB 06 1981

Docket No. 50-320

Mr. Gale Hovey  
Vice President and  
Director of TMI-2  
Metropolitan Edison Company  
P.O. Box 480  
Middletown, PA 17057

Dear Mr. Hovey:

This letter is in response to your letter (TLL-413) of September 8, 1980, requesting NRC approval for the shipment of several spent EPICOR-II resin prefilter liners to a DOE facility for examination and characterization of the liners and their contents. Due to the nature of the required proposed investigations, it is necessary that the spent resin liners be shipped unsolidified (i.e., unperturbed). Dewatering was performed on the liners when they were removed from service from the EPICOR-II processing system.

The purpose of the DOE research (as outlined in Mr. J. Griffith's letter to me of August 20, 1980) is to aid the development of a technology for safely storing, handling, and processing contaminated resins resulting from nuclear power plant accidents and operations, and to gain information of potential value to the safety of light water reactors. The NRC staff is fully supportive of these activities and the Commission has been informed of our intent to cooperate in the DOE examination and characterization of EPICOR-II resins at a suitable facility.

With regard to your request in TLL-413 for approval to ship unsolidified spent EPICOR-II resin liners, the Commission's Memorandum and Order of October 16, 1979, the Order for Modification of License by the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation of October 18, 1979, and Amendment No. 10 to the License No. OPR-73 of March 12, 1980, provide that the licensee shall not ship spent resins from EPICOR-II processing off-site unless they are solidified. However, the solidification provision pertains to ultimate disposition and does not apply to the planned shipment and research activities by the DOE. These activities are solely for the examination and characterization of the EPICOR-II spent resins and further provide for the return of the spent resins to the possession of the licensee following the conclusion of the DOE research.



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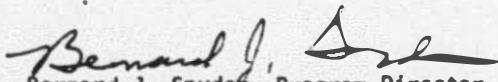
Mr. Gale Hovey

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In this regard, the staff has reviewed the TMI-2 operating license and determined that the authority exists in the present license for the licensee to receive the radioactive materials at the site following completion of the DOE tests. Thus the Metropolitan Edison Company may provide spent EPICOR-II resin liners to the custody of DOE (or their designated agent) for examination and characterization at a suitable facility.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

  
Bernard J. Snyder, Program Director  
TMI Program Office  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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