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May 15, 1985

TMI Program Office
Attn: Dr. B. J. Snyder
Program Director
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Dr. Snyder:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (TMI-2)
Operating License No. DPR-73
Docket No. 50-320
Equipment Hatch Removal Safety Evaluation Report
Response to NRC Questions

The attached responds to questions concerning the Equipment Hatch Removal Safety Evaluation Report (SER) which were forwarded by NRC Letter NRC/TMI 85-025 on April 8, 1985. The subject SER was submitted via GPU Nuclear letter 4410-85-L-0006 dated January 18, 1985.

As noted in NRC/TMI 85-025, GPU Nuclear intended to remove the equipment hatch on a contingency basis, if the need arose. However, planning had been progressing to remove the airlock barrel from the hatch from time-to-time to facilitate the movement of equipment. A more recent evolution of recovery planning now indicates that removal of the airlock barrel may not be necessary. Consequently, GPU Nuclear requests NRC approval, subject to prior notification, to remove the equipment hatch airlock barrel on a contingency basis. Since no specific need has been established at this time, GPU Nuclear commits to provide written notification to the NRC as soon as possible after identification of a specific need and, in any case, prior to removal of the airlock.

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Dr. H. J. Snyder

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The need to remove the entire equipment hatch will continue to be assessed and, if such a need is identified, an appropriate request for NRC approval will be forwarded based on the subject SER.

Sincerely,



F. R. Standerfer
Vice President/Director, TMI-2

FRS/RBS/eml

Attachment

cc: Deputy Program Director - TMI Program Office, Dr. W. D. Travers

NRC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES ON EQUIPMENT HATCH REMOVAL

QUESTION 1

How long will it take to replace the airlock and how will it be tested after replacement?

RESPONSE

It is estimated that replacement of the airlock barrel will take one working day. Installation of the airlock will be performed via a Unit Work Instruction. Prior to replacement, the mounting flange O-Rings will be replaced. After replacement of the airlock, the mounting flanges and O-Rings will be tested by pressurizing the space between the O-Rings using an originally installed test fitting. Test criteria will be documented using an approved Startup and Test procedure.

QUESTION 2

How will you measure effluents when the airlock is being removed/replaced and the reactor building purge is not operating?

RESPONSE

The air in the vicinity of the equipment hatch will be contained by the Containment Air Control Envelope (CACE) during operations involving removal of the equipment hatch. The CACE is supplied with dual ventilation trains which are each monitored by local stationary-filter continuous air monitor (AMS-3). These monitors will sample the ventilation system downstream of the installed HEPA filters. In addition, continuous air monitoring equipment will be installed to monitor ambient air in the CACE itself.

QUESTION 3

Will the removal and replacement result in any modifications to the penetrations?

RESPONSE

No. Removal of the airlock barrel will require the disconnection of various mechanical and electrical connections. The ability to disconnect and reconnect these connections is included in the design of the airlock; thus this does not constitute a modification to the penetration.