INFORMATION REPORT

For: The Commissioners
From: Harold A. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Thru: Executive Director for Operations
Subject: GPU/METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY PROGRAM FOR SHIPMENTS OF RADIOACTIVE SOLID WASTE FROM THREE MILE ISLAND, UNIT NO. 2
Purpose: To inform the Commission of planned shipments of radioactive solid waste from Three Mile Island, Unit No. 2.

Discussion: Shortly after the Three Mile Island Unit No. 2 (TMI-2) incident of March 28, 1979, Governor Richard Riley of South Carolina placed a restriction on the Barnwell site which prohibited the disposal of radioactive solid waste from TMI-2. No post-incident shipments of solid waste were made until mid-April, when three liners were shipped to the Richland, Washington, disposal site. The three liners were potentially contaminated with waste originating from TMI-2 and thus, could not go to Barnwell. Further, shipments of TMI-2 solid waste were suspended because of public concern in the states along the route, including the State of Washington. To minimize this concern and ensure that all shipments meet Federal regulatory requirements, the licensee has developed a program for solid waste shipments from TMI.

The program consists of three elements: (1) pre-shipment actions at TMI and in Pennsylvania, (2) notifications and information to states, and (3) preparations and notifications at the Richland site in the State of Washington.

The elements of the program are presented in Enclosure 1. The procedural aspects developed by the licensee to implement this program are listed in Enclosure 2. Enclosure 3 is a copy of the licensee's radioactive material shipment checklist.

Note from Enclosure 3 that prior to a shipment of waste leaving the site, the NRC onsite representatives (ARR and ER) must sign the checklist. Detailed instructions for completing the checklist are contained in Met-Ed's operating procedure 1978A which has been reviewed and approved by the licensee's Plant Operations Review Committee and by the NRC TMI staff.

This program was reviewed and concurred in by NRR. The shipment of Unit 2 waste occurred on August 7, 1979.

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