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MAR 25 1980

NRC/TMI-80-048

Docket No.: 50-320

Mr. Robert C. Arnold
Senior Vice President
Metropolitan Edison Company
100 Interpace Parkway
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Dear Mr. Arnold:

Subject: Reactor Building Entry

This is in response to a letter from R. F. Wilson (TLL 123), subject as above, dated March 21, 1980, in which Met-Ed requested permission to enter the Reactor Building prior to purging. For the past several weeks, my staff has been reviewing information previously received from you and met with your representatives to discuss the proposed manned entry. Based on the results of our review, permission to enter the Unit 2 Reactor Building is denied. Before permission is granted, we request that Met-Ed provide documentation to show that the containment atmosphere will sustain life in the event of a malfunction of the respiratory equipment. Present data suggests that there is an oxygen deficiency in the containment atmosphere. In addition, no data exists to preclude the existence of toxic contaminants in the building atmosphere (CO, O₂, and etc.).

I have attached to this letter additional recommendations made by the staff to improve the entry program. In addition, the staff is preparing a commission paper discussing the entry program in light of the fact that approximately 24 curies of Kr-85 will be released to the environment as a result of this entry. We expect to present this information to the Commissioners the later part of this week.

We are prepared to meet with you and your staff to discuss our comments in more detail at your earliest convenience.

Original signed by
John T. Collins
John T. Collins
Deputy Director
NRC/TMI Technical Support Staff

Attachment: As Stated

cc: See Distribution List

POOR ORIGINAL

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Enclosure 1
NRC/TMI Technical Support Staff
Recommendations For Entry Into
Unit 2 Reactor Building

1. Sampling and analysis of the containment atmosphere by a qualified industrial hygienist for oxygen, carbon monoxide and other contaminants should be performed, evaluated and any potential for threat to life and safety of the entry team members must be eliminated.
2. The fit of the Bio Pac 60 face piece should be verified while used with the actual protective clothing employed during the entry. In addition, the cautions contained in a memorandum from Goller to Distribution, Subject: Recommendations on the use of Recirculating - Mode (Closed Circuit) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (Rebreathers) dated March 3, 1980, should be met.
3. Entry team members must receive additional practice in radiological survey methods under actual radiological conditions.
4. A breathing zone air sampler should be provided for all entry team members to both verify the respiratory protection and to gain added useful information on radiological environmental conditions during work activities in the Reactor Building.
5. Provisions should be added to reduce the beta dose to personnel connected with the taking and carrying of the swipes. In view of the fact that swipes are not quantitative, consideration should be given to a technique that will provide for quantitative removal of activity from the surface.