

October 24, 1988

Docket No. 50-289

Mr. Henry D. Hukill, Vice President
and Director - TMI-1
GPU Nuclear Corporation
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Dear Mr. Hukill:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
RELATING TO EXEMPTION FROM REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR PART 50
APPENDIX R (TAC NO. 68331)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No
Significant Impact" for your information. This environmental assessment
relates to your May 21, 1988 request for an exemption to 10 CFR Part 50,
Appendix R, Section III.G.2.b for reactor coolant letdown system valve
circuitry.

The environmental assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal
Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ronald W. Hernan, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-4
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. Henry D. Hukill
GPU Nuclear Corporation

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station,
Unit No. 1

cc:

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Docketing and Service Section
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONMETROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANYJERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANYPENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANYGPU NUCLEAR CORPORATIONDOCKET NO. 50-289ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to GPU Nuclear Corporation (the licensee), for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1), located in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The exemption would grant relief from the requirements of Appendix R, Section III.G.2.b as these requirements relate to circuit separation for reactor coolant letdown system valves MU-V-2A, -2B, -3, -4 and -5. Appendix R would require the circuits for these valves to be separated by 20 feet with no intervening combustibles. Although the 20 feet separation exists in the as-built plant, intervening combustibles exist in the form of cables in trays which supply other, unrelated circuitry.

The exemption is responsive to the licensee's application for exemption dated May 21, 1988.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed because the features described in the licensee's request regarding the existing and proposed fire protection at the plant for this item are the most practical method for meeting the intent of Appendix R and literal compliance would not significantly enhance the fire protection capability.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption will provide a degree of fire protection such that there is no increase in the risk of fires at this facility. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the potential post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impacts. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

It has been concluded that there is no measurable impact associated with the proposed exemption; any alternatives to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

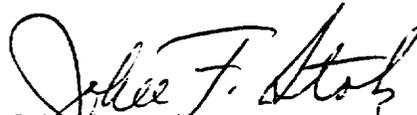
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated May 21, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue, Box 1601, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 24th day of October 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



John F. Stolz, Director
Project Directorate I-4
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation