

Docket No. 50-289

December 12, 1986

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

Dear Mr. Hukill:

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.119, the Commission has requested the Office of the Federal Register to publish the enclosed "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact." This notice relates to your requests dated February 11, 1985, November 7, 1985, May 17, 1986, and August 19, 1986, for exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix R.

Sincerely,

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John O. Thoma, Project Manager
PWR Project Directorate #6
Division of PWR Licensing-B

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact

cc w/enclosure:
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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGPU NUCLEAR CORPORATION, ET AL.DOCKET NO. 50-289ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of exemptions from the requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to GPU Nuclear Corporation (the licensee) for Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1 (TMI-1) located in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action: The exemptions are related to Sections III.G.2, III.G.3, and III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50, "Fire Protection For Nuclear Power Facilities Operating Prior to January 1, 1979". Section III.G of Appendix R requires fire protection for equipment important to safe shutdown. Such fire protection is achieved by various combinations of fire barriers, fire suppression systems, fire detectors, and separation of safety trains (III.G.2) or alternate safe shutdown equipment free of the fire area (III.G.3). The objective of this protection is to assure that one train of equipment needed for hot shutdown would be undamaged by fire, and that systems needed for cold shutdown could be repaired within 72 hours (III.G.1). Section III.J of Appendix R requires that emergency lighting units with at least an 8-hour battery power supply shall be provided in all areas needed for operation of safe shutdown equipment and in access and egress routes thereto.

The Need for the Proposed Action: Because it is not possible to predict the specific conditions under which fire may occur and propagate, the design basis protective features are specified in the rule rather than the design basis fire. Plant specific features may require protection different from the measures

specified in Sections III.G and III.J. In such cases, the licensee must demonstrate, by means of a detailed fire hazards analysis, that existing protection in conjunction with proposed modifications will provide a level of safety equivalent to the technical requirements of Sections III.G and III.J of Appendix R.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemptions provide a level of safety equivalent to the technical requirements of Sections III.G and III.J of Appendix R. The exemptions will not change the types, or allow an increase in the amounts, of effluents that may be released offsite. The exemptions would not result in an increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemptions involve features located entirely within the restricted areas as defined in 10 CFR 20. They do not affect nonradiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (construction permit and operating license) for 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 exemptions.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission 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 letters requesting the exemptions dated February 11, 1985, November 7, 1985, May 17, 1986 and August 19, 1986, which are 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, Education Building, Commonwealth and Walnut Streets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 12th day of December, 1986

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Gordon E. Edison

Gordon E. Edison, Acting Director
PWR Project Directorate #6
Division of PWR Licensing-B