

April 17, 1998

Mr. James W. Langenbach, Vice President
and Director - TMI-1
GPU Nuclear Corporation
P.O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

SUBJECT: THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT 1 (TMI-1) -
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO THE CHANGE IN THE TRADE
NAME OF THE OWNERS AND OPERATOR OF TMI-1 (TAC NO. M97476)

Dear Mr. Langenbach:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for amendment dated December 16, 1996 as supplemented September 11, 1997 and March 25, 1998. The proposed amendment would revise the Three Mile Island, Unit 1 (TMI-1) License to reflect the change in the legal name of the operator from GPU Nuclear Corporation to GPU Nuclear, Inc., and to reflect the registered trade name of "GPU Energy" under which the owners of TMI-1 are now conducting business. In addition, the TMI-1 Technical Specifications would be revised to reflect the change in the legal name of the operator of TMI-1.

The Assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Timothy G. Colburn, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-289

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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THIS IS A COPY

J. Langenbach
Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGPU NUCLEAR CORPORATIONTHREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT 1DOCKET NO. 50-289ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-50, issued to GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPU, the licensee), for operation of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1), located in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would revise the Facility Operating License No. DPR-50 and the Technical Specifications (TS) appended to Facility Operating License No. DPR-50 for the TMI-1 plant. Specifically, the proposed action would amend the license to reflect the change in the legal name of the operator from GPU Nuclear Corporation to GPU Nuclear, Inc. and to reflect the registered trade name of GPU Energy under which the owners of TMI-1 are now conducting business. In addition, the TMI-1 TSs would be revised to reflect the new legal name of the operator of TMI-1.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated December 16, 1996, as supplemented September 11, 1997 and March 25, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed actions are necessary because on or about August 1, 1996, the owners of TMI-1 registered to do business under the trade name of GPU Energy. Also on or about August 1, 1996, the legal name of the operator of TMI-1 was changed from GPU Nuclear Corporation to GPU Nuclear, Inc.

Environment Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action. As stated by the licensee,

The corporate existence of all three Owners and the operator of TMI-1 continues uninterrupted, and all legal characteristics remain the same. The name changes do not alter the state of incorporation, registered agent, registered office, directors, officers, rights or liabilities of the Owners of TMI-1 or the operator of TMI-1. Similarly, the name changes do not alter the function of either the Owners or the operator of TMI-1, or the way they do business. The Owner's financial responsibility for TMI-1 and their sources of funds to support the facility remain the same. These name changes do not impact the existing ownership of TMI-1 and do not alter any of the existing licensing conditions applicable to TMI-1. There is no change to GPU Nuclear, Inc.'s ability to comply with these licensing conditions or with any other obligation or responsibility under the license. Specifically, the Owners of TMI-1 remain regulated electric utilities. The funds accrued by the Owners continue to be available to fulfill all obligations related to TMI-1 as they were before the name changes.

There will be no impact on the safe operation of TMI-1 as a result of the name changes. Access to funds necessary to safely operate TMI-1 to the end of the license is unaffected. Access to decommissioning trust funds to ensure that TMI-1 can be decommissioned in accordance with NRC regulations remains as it was prior to the name changes.

In light of the foregoing, the Commission concludes that the change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there will be no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action is administrative in nature and does not involve any physical features of the plant. Thus, it does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action is administrative in nature and does not involve any physical features of the plant. Thus, it does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the TMI-1 plant.

Agencies and persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 16, 1998, the staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, Mr. Stan J. Maingi, of the Bureau of Radiation Protection, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State Official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's submittals dated December 16, 1996, September 11, 1997 and March 25, 1998, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the LAW/Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, (Regional Depository) Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue, P.O. Box 1601, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of April 1998.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Cecil O. Thomas, Director
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

April 17, 1998

MEMORANDUM TO: Rules and Directives Branch
 Division of Administrative Services
 Office of Administration

FROM: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO THE CHANGE IN THE TRADE
 NAME OF THE OWNERS AND OPERATOR OF TMI-1 (TAC NO. M97476)

One signed original of the *Federal Register* Notice identified below is attached for your transmittal to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Additional conformed copies (5) of the Notice are enclosed for your use.

- Notice of Receipt of Application for Construction Permit(s) and Operating License(s).
- Notice of Receipt of Partial Application for Construction Permit(s) and Facility License(s): Time for submission of Views on Antitrust matters.
- Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License. (Call with 30-day insert date).
- Notice of Receipt of Application for Facility License(s); Notice of Availability of Applicant's Environmental Report; and Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Facility License(s) and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.
- Notice of Availability of NRC Draft/Final Environmental Statement.
- Notice of Limited Work Authorization.
- Notice of Availability of Safety Evaluation Report.
- Notice of Issuance of Construction Permit(s).
- Notice of Issuance of Facility Operating License(s) or Amendment(s).
- Order.
- Exemption.
- Notice of Granting Exemption.
- Environmental Assessment.
- Notice of Preparation of Environmental Assessment.
- Receipt of Petition for Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206.
- Issuance of Final Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206.
- Other: _____

DOCKET NO. 50-289

Attachment(s): As stated

Contact: T. Clark
 Telephone: 415-1474

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