

February 2, 1990

Docket No. 50-219

Mr. E. E. Fitzpatrick
Vice President and Director
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Post Office Box 388
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

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Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
EXEMPTION FROM THE EMERGENCY LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN
SECTION III.J OF APPENDIX R TO 10 CFR PART 50 (TAC NO. 66055)

Enclosed is the Environmental Assessment which relates to your request dated
November 24, 1986, for exemption from the emergency lighting requirements
contained in Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50.

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

Sincerely,

/s/

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

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. E. E. Fitzpatrick
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Oyster Creek Nuclear
Generating Station

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGPU NUCLEAR CORPORATIONANDJERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANYOYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATIONDOCKET NO. 50-219ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to GPU Nuclear Corporation, et al. (the licensee) for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, located at the licensee's site in Ocean County, New Jersey.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The licensee is requesting an exemption from the requirements of Section III.J of 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix R "Emergency Lighting" to move into the control room the d.c. power source (batteries or battery/charger units) for the control room emergency lights. The licensee's request and bases for exemption are contained in a letter dated November 24, 1986.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The exemption is needed because compliance with the regulation would result in undue hardship and additional costs significantly in excess of those incurred by others similarly situated. Compliance with the regulation would require either relocation of the d.c. batteries and power supplies or upgrading

of barriers, penetrations, and fire protection systems in the area of concern. Relocation of the batteries would involve installing racks and service connections within the control room area. This approach is not desirable since this would result in additional control room congestion as well as introducing those hazards normal to all battery installations.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed exemption from the requirement of Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to provide individual battery powered emergency lighting units in the control room. The licensee has requested an exemption from the provision of Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to the extent that the batteries which provide power to the emergency lights in the control room can be damaged by fire other than a fire in the control room.

The Oyster Creek Control Room has two separate lighting systems. Based on its review of the information presented, the Commission concluded that the two separate lighting systems are adequate to assure continuous lighting in the control room for any fire postulated to occur in the plant. Therefore, the proposed exemption does not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed exemption would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption from the requirements of Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 involves the control room which is located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 50. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological 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 does not involve the use of any resources beyond the scope of resources used during normal plant operation.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's request that supports the proposed exemption. The staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concluded 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 exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated November 24, 1986. Copies of the request for exemption are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Local Public Document Room located at the Ocean County Library, Reference Department, 101 Washington Street, Toms River, New Jersey 08753.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of February 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John F. Stolz".

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