UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

February 12, 1990

Docket No. 50-219

Exemption to DPR-16

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

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION FROM THE EMERGENCY LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN SECTION III.J OF APPENDIX R TO 10 CFR PART 50 (TAC NO. 66055)

The Commission has issued an exemption from the emergency lighting requirements contained in Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 in response to your letter of November 24, 1986.

By letter dated November 24, 1986, you requested an exemption from the requirements of Section III.J Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to move into the control room the d.c. power source (batteries or battery/charger units) for the control room emergency lights. The basis for the requested exemption is that two lighting systems are installed in the control room. Each system has its own independent power supply. In addition, the power supplies and electrical circuits to the two lighting systems are so separated that no single fire outside the control room will damage both. This arrangement assures continuous lighting in the control room in the event of any postulated fire occurring in the plant.

We have reviewed your request and the supporting technical information contained in your November 24, 1986 letter. We agree with GPU Nuclear Corporation's (GPUN) conclusion that the existing two lighting systems with independent and separate power supplies and circuits provided for the control room are fully acceptable. We also agree that the installation of individual 8-hour capacity battery powered emergency lighting capacity battery powered emergency lighting units in the control room would not significantly improve fire safety in the plant. Therefore, an exemption from the emergency lighting requirements contained in Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 is granted. Our Safety Evaluation regarding this matter is enclosed.

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This exemption is being forwarded to the Office of 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

Enclosures:
1. Exemption
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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Sincerely,

Alexander W. Dromerick

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

Enclosures:
1. Exemption
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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

Oyster Creek Nuclear
Generating Station

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM BATTERY POWERED EMERGENCY

LIGHTING UNITS IN THE CONTROL ROOM

GPU NUCLEAR CORPORATION AND

JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-219

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated November 24, 1986, the licensee, GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPUN/licensee), requested an 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.

2.0 EXEMPTION REQUESTED

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.

3.0 EVALUATION

Normal control room lighting is powered from a vital lighting bus. This bus receives power from normal offsite source and, by means of automatic transfer switch, to either Emergency Diesel Generator 1 or 2.

Emergency lighting for the control room is provided by a separate 12 volt system powered from 277 volt input, 12 volt output battery/charger units. The battery/charger units are located adjacent to the control room in the office building in fire area OB-FA-9. These batteries are on constant trickle charge, supply power only to the control room emergency lights and will last longer than 8 hours.

These two lighting systems and their power supplies and wiring circuits are physically and electrically independent and separate from each other. Although a fire in Fire Area OB-FA-9 could damage the batteries which supply power to the emergency lights, the two lighting systems are so located and arranged that a single fire could not threaten both at the same time.

We have reviewed the technical support provided by the licensee in their letter of November 24, 1986, and agree with their presentation and conclusions.

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4.0 CONCLUSION

Based upon the above evaluation, we conclude 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. The technical support for this conclusion is that each lighting system has its own power supply. In addition, these two power supplies are independent of each other and physically separated so that a single fire will not damage both. Therefore, relocation of the existing batteries or battery/charger units or the installation of individual battery powered emergency lighting units in the control room would not significantly enhance safety at Oyster Creek and this requested exemption should be granted.

Dated: February 12, 1990

Principal Contributor:

D. Notley

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of (GPU NUCLEAR CORPORATION AND JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY) (Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station)	)))))))	Docket No. 50-219

EXEMPTION

I.

The GPU Nuclear Corporation and Jersey Central Power & Light Company (GPUN/ the licensee) are the holders of Provisional Operating License No. DPR-16, which authorizes operation of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, (the facility) at steady state reactor core power levels not in excess of 1930 megawatts thermal. The license provides, among other things, that Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station is subject to all rules, regulations, and Orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

The plant is boiling water reactor (BWR) located at the licensee's site in Ocean County, New Jersey.

II.

On November 19, 1980, the NRC published a revised Code of Federal Regulations, Section 10 CFR 50.48 and a new Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 regarding fire protection features of nuclear power plants. The revised Section 50.48 and Appendix R became effective on February 17, 1981. Section III of Appendix R contains fifteen (15) subsections, lettered A through O, each of which specifies requirements for a particular aspect of the fire protection features at a nuclear power plant. One of these fifteen subsections, III.J, is the subject of this exemption request. Specifically, Section III.J requires emergency lighting units of 8-hour capacity be provided for all areas needed for operation of safe shutdown equipment and for access and egress routes thereto.

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III.

By letter dated November 24, 1986, the licensee requested an exemption from the requirements of Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to move into the control room the d.c. power source (batteries or battery/charges units) for the control room emergency lights. The basis for the requested exemption is that two lighting systems are installed in the control room. Each system has its own independent power supply. In addition, the power supplies and electrical circuits to the two lighting systems are so separated that no single fire outside the control room will damage both. This arrangement assures continuous lighting in the control room in the event of any postulated fire occurring in the plant.

The staff has reviewed the licensee's request and the supporting technical information contained in the licensee's November 24, 1986 letter. The staff agrees with GPU Nuclear Corporation's conclusion that the existing two lighting systems with independent and separate power supplies and circuits provided for the control room are fully acceptable. The staff also agrees that the installation of individual 8-hour capacity battery powered emergency lighting units in the control room would not significantly improve fire safety in the plant.

IV.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, this exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. The Commission has further determined that special circumstances, as set forth in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), are present justifying the exemption, namely that the application of the regulation in the particular circumstances is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule. Accordingly, the Commission hereby grants an exemption as described in Section III above from the requirements of Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (55 FR 4497).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Steven A. Varga, Director
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Rockville, Maryland
this 12th day of February, 1990