

June 14, 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

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT - EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
CONTAINED IN SECTION III.G OF APPENDIX R TO 10 CFR PART 50
OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION (TAC NO. 62229)

Enclosed is the Environmental Assessment which relates to your request dated August 25, 1986, for exemptions from certain technical requirements contained in Section III.G of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50.

This 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:
As Stated

cc w/enclosure:
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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 COMMISSION
GPU NUCLEAR CORPORATION AND JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
DOCKET NO. 50-219
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Section III.G 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 ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The licensee is requesting exemptions from certain technical requirements of Section III.G of 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix R "Fire Protection of Safe Shutdown Capability." The licensee's request and bases for exemptions are contained in a letter dated August 25, 1986.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The exemptions are needed because additional modifications to achieve strict compliance with the regulations represents an unwarranted burden on the licensee since the cost associated with those modifications are significantly in excess of those required to meet the underlying purpose of the rule. These costs consist of engineering and construction resources and associated capital costs related to the following:

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- 1) Relocation of piping and valves which would complicate plant operations and decrease operator efficiency.
- 2) Reconfiguration of electrical systems and complex rerouting of high power electrical cabling and associated circuits.
- 3) Installation of new power panels and interconnection with existing systems.
- 4) Rerouting of many large cables and cable trays to make room for fire barriers which are not necessary to assure safe shutdown when considering the existing protection in relation to the hazard.
- 5) Additional congestion of plant areas which would complicate plant operations and future modifications.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed exemptions from certain technical requirements of Section III.G of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 for specific areas of the plant.

Based on its review, the Commission agrees with GPUN and in each case we have concluded that the requested exemption is valid and should be granted. 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 nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemptions from the requirements of Section III.G of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 involves various buildings in the reactor plant which are located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. 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 exemptions; any alternatives to the exemptions will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of 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 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 exemption.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated August 25, 1986. Copies of the request for exemption are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Ocean County Library, Reference Department, 101 Washington Street, Toms River, New Jersey 08753.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 14th day of June , 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

John F. Stolz, Director
Project Directorate 1-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulatory