

May 25, 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: OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
(TAC 76363)

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact which relates to your submittal dated March 19, 1990, requesting a license amendment to revise Technical Specification 3.3.F.2. Specifically, the change would include limitations on operation with an idle recirculation loop which is isolated. A revision to Section 3.3 and 3.10 bases would also be needed to reflect this change.

The assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

*BSI*

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:  
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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Forked River, New Jersey 08731

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

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Provisional Operating License No. DPR-16 issued to GPU Nuclear Corporation, et. al. (the licensee), for operation of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, located in Ocean County, New Jersey.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would revise Technical Specification (TS) 3.3.F.2. Specifically, the change would include limitations on operation with an idle recirculation loop which is isolated. A revision to Section 3.3 and 3.10 bases would also be needed to reflect this change.

The proposed amendment is in accordance with GPU Nuclear Corporation's application dated March 19, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed changes to the Technical Specifications are needed so that the recirculation pump could be isolated without requiring an unnecessary shutdown. The licensee proposed the Technical Specification change as a result of a Technical Specification - required shutdown on February 6, 1990. The

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shutdown was required when the unidentified leak rate approached the Technical Specification limit of 5 gallons per minute. The leakage was due to a failed recirculation pump seal on recirculation loop A. If the pump could have been isolated, the leakage might have been reduced, and a shutdown averted. The ability to isolate a recirculation pump would prevent unnecessary shutdowns in the future.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revisions to the Technical Specifications. The proposed revisions would allow an idle recirculation loop to be isolated. Oyster Creek is currently authorized to continue power operation if one of the five recirculation loops is taken out of service provided the idle loop is not isolated. The authorized configuration allows the loop discharge valve to be closed and the discharge bypass valve and suction valves to be open. The requested change would allow the discharge bypass valve and suction valve as well as the discharge valve to be closed, thus, completely isolating the portion of the recirculation loop containing the pump. Loss of coolant accident (LOCA) and thermal stress analyses support the proposed change. Based on our review, the staff has concluded that radioactive releases and thermal stress levels remain within the design basis limits since there are no physical changes being made to the facility. Operation in the proposed manner precludes the occurrence of a severe cold water addition transient which is an analyzed transient of moderate frequency.

Based on the above, the staff has determined that the proposed Technical Specifications do not alter any initial conditions assumed for the design basis accidents previously evaluated nor do they change operation of safety

systems utilized to mitigate them. Therefore, the proposed changes (1) do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of any accident previously evaluated, (2) do not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated and (3) do not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

Therefore, the proposed changes do 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 is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that these proposed actions would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed changes to the Technical Specifications involve the reactor coolant system which is located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. They do not affect nonradiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impacts. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on April 10, 1990 (55 FR 13341). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice. Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed actions, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This alternative would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and the inability to isolate a pump may require unnecessary shutdowns in the future.

Alternative Use of Resources:

The action would involve no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (FES) for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

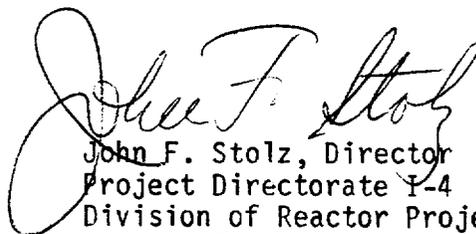
The staff has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated March 19, 1990, which is available for public inspection in the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and the Ocean County Library, Reference Department, 101 Washington Street, Toms River, New Jersey 08753.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this June 7, 1990 .

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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