

March 8, 1993

Docket No. 50-219

Mr. John J. Barton  
Vice President and Director  
GPU Nuclear Corporation  
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station  
Post Office Box 388  
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Distribution:

Docket File ADromerick  
NRC & Local PDRs OGC  
PD I-4 Plant EJordan  
TMurley/FMiraglia GHill (2)  
JPartlow ACRS (10)  
ERossi OPA  
JLieberman OC/LFDCB  
SVarga VMcCree, EDO  
JCalvo JFRogge, RI  
JStolz  
SNorris

Dear Mr. Barton:

SUBJECT: OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) AND  
(c)(1) EXEMPTION REQUEST (TAC NO. M85321)

By letter dated January 4, 1993, GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPUN) requested an exemption under 10 CFR 55.11 from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) and (c)(1). By letter dated January 20, 1993, GPUN provided additional information to the staff to support the exemption request. The schedular exemption requested will allow extending the current Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station requalification program duration from 24 to 32 months to allow the comprehensive written examination required by 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2) to be conducted by the NRC during August 1993. The requested exemption would constitute a one-time extension of the requalification program duration for those licensed operators whose last comprehensive written examination was administered on March 5, 1991. The NRC staff has reviewed GPUN's requested exemption and has determined that an extension from 24 to 30 months is adequate to allow the NRC exams to be conducted during August 1993. Accordingly, the NRC staff determined that an extension to 30 months, rather than the requested 32 months, be granted. This exemption expires September 30, 1993.

A copy of the enclosed Exemption has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

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

Enclosure:  
Exemption

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

100021

D:DRPE  
SVarga  
1 / 93

OFFICE	LA:PDI-4	PM:PDI-4	D:PDI-4	OGC	AD:DRPE
NAME	SNorris	ADromerick:cn	JStolz	CPW	JCalvo
DATE	2/17/93	2/17/93	2/18/93	2/15/93	3/2/93

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY  
Document Name: G:\DROMERIC\M85321.EXE

9303110293 930308  
PDR ADOCK 05000219  
PDR

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

DF06  
11

Mr. John J. Barton  
GPU Nuclear Corporation

Oyster Creek Nuclear  
Generating Station

cc:

Ernest L. Blake, Jr., Esquire  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge  
2300 N Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20037

Resident Inspector  
c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Post Office Box 445  
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Regional Administrator, Region I  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Kent Tosch, Chief  
New Jersey Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Nuclear Engineering  
CN 415  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

BWR Licensing Manager  
GPU Nuclear Corporation  
1 Upper Pond Road  
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Mayor  
Lacey Township  
818 West Lacey Road  
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Licensing Manager  
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station  
Mail Stop: Site Emergency Bldg.  
Post Office Box 388  
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
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 Facility 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. This facility is a boiling water reactor located in Ocean County, New Jersey. 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.

II.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) and (c)(1), each licensed operator is required to successfully complete a requalification program developed by the licensee that has been approved by the Commission. This program is to be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration

and upon its conclusion must be promptly followed by a successive requalification program.

### III.

By letter dated January 4, 1993, the licensee requested an exemption under 10 CFR 55.11 from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) and (c)(1). By letter dated January 20, 1993, GPUN provided additional information to the staff to support the exemption request. The schedular exemption requested will allow extending the current Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station requalification program duration from 24 to 32 months to allow the comprehensive written examination required by 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2) to be conducted by the NRC during August 1993. The requested exemption would constitute a one-time extension of the requalification program duration for those licensed operators whose last comprehensive written examination was administered on March 5, 1991.

The Code of Federal Regulations at 10 CFR 55.11 states that "The Commission may, upon application by an interested person, or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions from the requirements of the regulations in this part as it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property ~~and are~~ otherwise in the public interest."

### IV.

The Commission has determined that pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, the exemption to 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) and (c)(1) is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property and is otherwise in the public interest. The

logistical scheduling of the licensee's operators and staff necessary to support the comprehensive written examination during the 24 month requalification cycle would have a detrimental effect on the public interest due to potentially prolonging the current plant refueling outage and on-site acceptance testing of the newly certified plant referenced simulator. The extension of the current program duration to accommodate the administration of a written comprehensive examination in August 1993 will not have a negative impact on the overall process of upgrading operator knowledge. The affected licensed operators will continue to demonstrate and possess the required levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to safely operate the plant throughout the transitional period via continuation of the current program. By conducting the NRC comprehensive written examination portion of the requalification examinations in August 1993, all of the affected licensed operators will have been examined within the 6-year term of their license.

Therefore, the Commission hereby grants GPUN an exemption on a one-time only basis from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) and (c)(1) to allow the current Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station requalification program duration to be extended beyond 24 months not exceeding 30 months and expiring on September 30, 1993. This extension would correspond with the NRC requalification examinations scheduled for August 1993. Since the maximum extension period for individual licensed operators is from March 1993 to September 30, 1993, an extension of a maximum of 6 months beyond the 24 month program duration is all that is warranted.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the issuance of this Exemption will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (58 FR 12975).

This exemption is effective upon issuance. This exemption expires on September 30, 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original signed by

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

Dated at Rockville, Maryland  
this 8th day of March 1993.

\*See previous concurrence

OFFICE	LA:PDI-4 *	PM:PDI-4 *	D:PDI-4 *	OGC	AD:DRPE *
NAME	SNorris	ADromerick:cn	JStolz	<i>CPW</i>	JCalvo
DATE	2/17/93	2/17/93	2/18/93	2/18/93	3/2/93
OFFICE	D:DRPE				
NAME	<i>S Varga</i>				
DATE	3/3/93	/ /	/ /	/ /	/ /

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY  
Document Name: G:\DROMERIC\M85321.EXE