

March 1, 1993

Docket No. 50-219

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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

Dear Mr. Barton:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
 EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) and (c)(1),
 OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION (TAC NO. M85321)

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact which relates to your request dated January 4, 1993, as supplemented by letter dated January 20, 1993, for a one-time exemption from 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) and (c)(1).

The assessment is being 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:
 Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
 See next page

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Mr. John J. Barton
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Oyster Creek Nuclear
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cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGPU NUCLEAR CORPORATIONOYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATIONDOCKET NO. 50-219ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a one-time exemption from 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) and (c)(1) to the GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPUN or the licensee) for Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, located in Ocean County, New Jersey.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant a one-time exemption to the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) and (c)(1), which require a licensed operator requalification program to be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration. GPUN is requesting an extension of the current program duration from 24 to 32 months.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

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 NRC 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 determined, however, that an extension to 30 months is adequate to allow the comprehensive written exam required by 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2) to be administered by the NRC during August 1993 as requested by the licensee.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The NRC staff has reviewed the proposed action with regard to environmental impacts. The NRC staff concludes that there will be no change in the competence of any licensed operator, subject to the proposed action. Accordingly, there will be no increases in routine or accidental radioactive releases resulting from the proposed action; thus, there will be no environmental impacts associated with potential radioactive releases. In addition, since the proposed action does not affect land use or plant operation, other previously considered environmental impacts described in the Final Environmental Statement for Oyster Creek, dated December 1974, will not be more significant.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to deny the exemption requested. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the Final Environmental Statement 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.

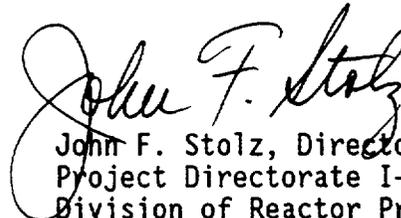
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing 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 January 4, 1993, as supplemented by letter dated January 20, 1993, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 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 1st day of March 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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