

September 2, 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

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Dear Mr. Barton:

SUBJECT: OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
(TAC NO. M81093)

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact which relates to your submittal dated July 22, 1991, as supplemented February 14, 1992, August 19, 1992, and July 12, 1993, requesting a license amendment to revise Technical Specification 5.2.A to change the current containment drywell pressure of 62 psig to the new design pressure of 44 psig and the current containment drywell temperatures of 175 °F to the new design temperature of 292 °F. Related changes to Technical Specification Bases are also proposed. Unrelated editorial changes to the Bases of Technical Specification 3.4 and 3.5 are also proposed.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Alexander W. Dromerick, Sr. 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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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alexander W. Dromerick, Sr.", is written above the typed name.

Alexander W. Dromerick, Sr. 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

Mr. John J. Barton  
GPU Nuclear Corporation

Oyster Creek Nuclear  
Generating Station

cc:

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Bureau of Nuclear Engineering  
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Trenton, New Jersey 08625

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGPU NUCLEAR CORPORATIONJERSEY 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 Facility 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 the Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would revise Technical Specification 5.2.A to change the current containment drywell pressure of 62 psig to the new design pressure of 44 psig and the current containment drywell temperatures of 175 °F to the new design temperature of 292 °F. Related changes to Technical Specification Bases are also proposed. Unrelated editorial changes to the bases of Technical Specification 3.4 and 3.5 are also proposed.

The proposed amendment is in accordance with GPU Nuclear Corporation's application dated July 22, 1991, as supplemented February 14, 1992, August 19, 1992, and July 12, 1993.

Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed changes to the Facility Operating License are needed because it is a part of GPU Nuclear Corporation's comprehensive program to address the corrosion of the Oyster Creek drywell.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the licensee's proposal to change the current containment drywell pressure of 62 psig to the new design pressure of 44 psig and the current containment drywell temperatures of 175 °F to the new design temperature of 292 °F. The licensee also proposes to change the related Technical Specification Bases.

Based on its review of the licensee's analyses and the licensee's statement that the analyses have been performed in accordance with the Standard Review Plan, the staff finds that the licensee's proposed change to reduce the current containment drywell pressure of 62 psig to the new design pressure of 44 psig and the current containment drywell temperatures of 175 °F to the new design temperature of 292 °F is acceptable. The Commission has determined that the proposed changes do not alter any initial conditions assumed for the design basis accidents previously evaluated nor change operation of safety systems utilized to mitigate the design basis accidents.

The proposed changes do not increase the probability or consequences of accidents. No change is 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 the proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed changes to the Technical Specifications involve components in the plant which are 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 impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the action would be to deny the amendment requested. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment.

Alternative Use of Resources:

The action would involve no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station dated December 1974.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff consulted with the State of New Jersey regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action.

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 amendment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated July 22, 1991, as supplemented February 14, 1992, August 19, 1992, and July 12, 1993, which are available for public inspection in 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 2nd day of September 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alexander W. Dromerick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

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