

December 17, 1991

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. M81533)

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact which relates to your submittal dated August 19, 1991 as revised August 29, 1991, requesting a license amendment to revise Technical Specification Sections 4.2.A and 4.2.C.1 to delete restriction that the refueling outage interval is not to exceed 20 months. This revision accommodates implementation of a 21-month operating cycle with a 3-month refueling outage. Specifically, it relates to the surveillance requirements for shutdown margin and measured scram time for the control rods.

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

Sincerely,

/s/

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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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

I. H. Jolles, Executive Vice President
GPU Service Corporation
100 Interpace Parkway
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

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

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

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.
P. O. Box 388
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

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

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (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 Sections 4.2.A and 4.2.C.1 to delete restriction that the refueling outage interval is not to exceed 20 months. This revision accommodates implementation of a 21-month operating cycle with a 3-month refueling outage. Specifically, it relates to the surveillance requirements for shutdown margin and measured scram time for the control rods.

The proposed amendment is in accordance with GPU Nuclear Corporation's application dated August 19, 1991 as revised August 29, 1991.

Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed change to the Facility Operating License is needed so that surveillance requirements for shutdown margin and measured scram time of control rods is extended to accommodate a 21-month operating cycle with a 3-month outage or a 24-month plant refueling cycle.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revision to Technical Specification Section 4.2 "Reactivity Control." The proposed revision would accommodate implementation of a 21-month operating cycle with a 3-month outage or a 24-month plant refueling cycle for the Oyster Creek surveillance requirements for shutdown margin and measured scram time of control rods. The surveillance interval is presently 20 months.

Based on its review, the Commission concludes that the proposed change is acceptable. The staff has determined that the proposed change does 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 change does 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 proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed change to the License involves one component in the plant which is located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impacts. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

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.

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 dated December 1974.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

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

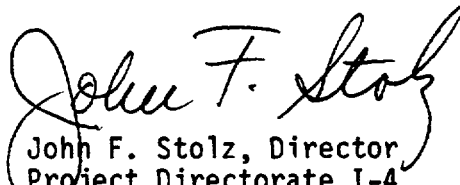
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the staff 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 August 19, 1991, as revised August 29, 1991, which is available for public inspection in the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20555 and 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 17th day of December 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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