

March 17, 1999

Mr. Michael B. Roche
Vice President and Director
GPU Nuclear, Inc.
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
P.O. Box 388
Forked River, NJ 08731

SUBJECT: OYSTER CREEK - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT RE: CONDENSATE STORAGE TANK LEVEL (TAC NO. MA3522)

Dear Mr. Roche:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 204 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-16 for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, in response to your application dated September 3, 1998.

The amendment will revise Technical Specifications 3.4.A.10.e and 3.5.a.2.e to incorporate a Condensate Storage Tank level of greater than 35 feet.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ronald B. Eaton, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-219

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 204 to DPR-16
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 17, 1999

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Vice President and Director
GPU Nuclear, Inc.
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald B. Eaton".

Ronald B. Eaton, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-219

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2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

M. Roche
GPU Nuclear, Inc.

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Mayor
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Licensing Manager
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Mail Stop: Site Emergency Bldg.
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Forked River, NJ 08731

Resident Inspector
c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Forked River, NJ 08731

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

DATED: March 17, 1999

AMENDMENT NO. 204 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-16-OYSTER
CREEK

Docket File

PUBLIC

PDI-2 Reading

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

GPU NUCLEAR, INC.

AND

JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-219

OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 204
License No. DPR-16

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by GPU Nuclear, Inc. et al., (the licensee), dated September 3, 1998, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance: (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

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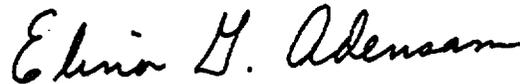
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-16 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 204, are hereby incorporated in the license. GPU Nuclear, Inc. shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of issuance, to be implemented within 30 days of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Elinor G. Adensam, Director
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: March 17, 1999

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 204

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-16

DOCKET NO. 50-219

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A, Technical Specifications, with the attached pages as indicated. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain vertical lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove

3.4-3

3.5-2

Insert

3.4-3

3.5-2

9. If Specifications 3.4.A.7 and 3.4.A.8 cannot be met, the requirements of Specification 3.4.A.6 will be met and work will be initiated to meet minimum operability requirements of 3.4.A.7 and 3.4.A.8.
10. The core spray system is not required to be operable when the following conditions are met:
 - a. The reactor mode switch is locked in the "refuel" or "shutdown" position.
 - b.
 - (1) There is an operable flow path capable of taking suction from the condensate storage tank and transferring water to the reactor vessel, and
 - (2) The fire protection system is operable.
 - c. The reactor coolant system is maintained at less than 212° F and vented (except during reactor vessel pressure testing).
 - d. At least one core spray pump, and system components necessary to deliver rated core spray flow to the reactor vessel, must remain operable to the extent that the pump and any necessary valves can be started or operated from the control room or from local control stations, and the torus is mechanically intact.
 - e.
 - (1) No work shall be performed on the reactor or its connected systems which could result in lowering the reactor water level to less than 4'8" above the top of the active fuel and the condensate storage tank level is greater than thirty five (35) feet (360,000 gallons). At least two redundant systems including core spray pumps and system components must remain operable as defined in d. above

OR

- (2) The reactor vessel head, fuel pool gate, and separator-dryer pool gates are removed and the water level is above elevation 117 feet.

NOTE: When filling the reactor cavity from the condensate storage tank and draining the reactor cavity to the condensate storage tank, the 35 foot limit does not apply provided there is sufficient amount of water to complete the flooding operation.

B. Automatic Depressurization System

1. Five electromatic relief valves, which provide the automatic depressurization and pressure relief functions, shall be operable when the reactor water temperature is greater than 212° F and pressurized above 110 psig, except as specified in 3.4.B.2 and during Reactor Vessel Pressure Testing consistent with Specifications 1.39 and 3.3.A.(i).

2. Maintenance and repair, including draining of the suppression pool, may be performed provided that the following conditions are satisfied:
- a. The reactor mode switch is locked in the refuel or shutdown position.
 - b. (1) There is an OPERABLE flow path capable of taking suction from the condensate storage tank and transferring water to the reactor vessel, and
(2) The fire protection system is OPERABLE.
 - c. The reactor coolant system is maintained at less than 212° F and vented.
 - d. At least one core spray pump, and system components necessary to deliver rated core spray flow to the reactor vessel, must remain OPERABLE to the extent that the pump and any necessary valves can be started or operated from the control room or from local control stations, and the torus is mechanically intact.
 - e. (1) No work shall be performed on the reactor or its connected systems which could result in lowering the reactor water level to less than 4'8" above the TOP OF the ACTIVE FUEL and the condensate storage tank level is greater than thirty five (35) feet (360,000 gallons). At least two redundant systems including core spray pumps and system components must remain OPERABLE as defined in d. above.

or

- (2) The reactor vessel head, fuel pool gate, and separator-dryer pool gates are removed and the water level is above elevation 117 feet.

NOTE: When filling the reactor cavity from the condensate storage tank and draining the reactor cavity to the condensate storage tank, the 35 foot limit does not apply provided there is sufficient amount of water to complete the flooding operation.



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 204

TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-16

GPU NUCLEAR, INC. AND

JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-219

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated September 3, 1998, the GPU Nuclear, Inc. (the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station Technical Specifications (TSs). The requested changes would revise the Condensate Storage Tank (CST) water level from greater than 30 feet to greater than 35 feet.

2.0 EVALUATION

The current TS permits the core spray system to be inoperable and allows for torus repairs and inspections, provided a minimum inventory of 360,000 gallons of water is maintained in the CST. To guarantee availability of the minimum 360,000 gallons of water in the CST, the current TSs stipulate a CST water level limit of greater than 30 feet. The licensee's in-house review recently identified a discrepancy between the referenced water volume of 360,000 gallons and the specified tank level limit of 30 feet. The discrepancy was a result of using a wrong formula for calculating gallons/feet of water in the CST. The unusable CST volume below the pump nozzle was not accounted for and the minimum suction pipe submergence-requirements for vortexing consideration was not addressed adequately. To address and account for the above, the licensee revised the calculations and, according to the revised calculation, a level greater than 35 feet must be maintained in the CST to demonstrate that 360,000 gallons of water is available. This value is within the design parameters of the CST. Based on the above, the staff concludes that the proposed TS modification revising the minimum CST water level from 30 feet to 35 feet is acceptable. The new setting removes discrepancies of past calculations and guarantees the required minimum water inventory of 360,000 gallons in the CST.

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3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the New Jersey State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (64 FR 6698). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: S. V. Athavale

Date: March 17, 1999