

December 12, 1997

Mr. Michael B. Roche
Vice President and Director
GPU Nuclear, Inc.
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
P.O. Box 388
Forked River, NJ 08731-0388

SUBJECT: OYSTER CREEK - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO THE CHANGE IN
TRADE NAME OF THE OWNER AND OPERATOR (TAC NO. M99803)

Dear Mr. Roche:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for amendment dated October 10, 1997. The proposed amendment would revise the Oyster Creek operating license and technical specifications to reflect the registered trade name of "GPU Nuclear" under which the owner of Oyster Creek now does business and to reflect the change of the legal name of the operator of Oyster Creek from GPU Nuclear Corporation to GPU Nuclear, Inc. In addition, two minor editorial corrections associated with the name change are included in the proposed amendment.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Craig W. Smith, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-219

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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M. Roche
GPU Nuclear Corporation

Oyster Creek Nuclear
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cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGPU NUCLEAR CORPORATIONANDJERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-219OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATIONENVIRONMENTAL 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 (OCNGS) located in Ocean County, New Jersey.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would revise the OCNGS operating license and technical specifications (TSs) to reflect the registered trade name of "GPU Nuclear" under which the owner of OCNGS now does business and to reflect the change of the legal name of the operator of OCNGS from GPU Nuclear Corporation to GPU Nuclear, Inc. In addition, the proposed action includes two minor editorial corrections associated with the name changes.

Specifically, license conditions 1.A, 1.E, 1.F, and 2 have been revised to indicate Jersey Central Power & Light Company doing business as (d/b/a) GPU Energy and GPU Nuclear, Inc. as the licensed operator of the facility and TSs 6.2.1, 6.5.1, 6.5.2, 6.5.3, 6.18, and 6.19 have been modified to change GPU Nuclear Corp. to GPU Nuclear or GPU Nuclear, Inc. as applicable.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated October 10, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to conform the license to reflect the registered trade name under which the owner of OCNGS now does business and reflect the change in the legal name of the operator of OCNGS.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed amendment to the OCNGS operating license to reflect the trade name of the owner and to reflect the change in the legal name of the operator will have no impact on the continued safe operation of the facility. The corporate existence of the owner and operator of OCNGS will continue uninterrupted, and all legal characteristics other than the legal name of the operator will remain the same. The State of incorporation, registered agent, registered office, directors, officers, rights or liabilities of either the owner or the operator of OCNGS have not and will not change as a result of the amendment. Similarly, there will be no change in the function of either the owner or the operator of OCNGS or the way they do business. The owner's financial responsibility for OCNGS and the source of funds to support the facility will remain the same. There will be no alteration in any of the existing licensing conditions applicable to OCNGS, and no change to GPU Nuclear Corporation's ability to comply with any licensing conditions or any other obligation or responsibility under the license. Specifically, the owner of OCNGS will remain an electric utility as defined in 10 CFR 50.2. The funds accrued by the owner will continue to be available to fulfill all obligations related to OCNGS. The two minor editorial changes relate to a name change in the title of the President of GPU

Nuclear Corporation that will similarly have no effect on the safe operation or licensing conditions of the facility.

Therefore, the proposed action will 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 there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

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

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on December 12, 1997, the staff consulted with the New Jersey State official regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the 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 action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated October 10, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Ocean County Library, Reference Department, 101 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ 08753.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of December 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Ronald B. Eaton, Acting Director
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation