



GENERAL
PUBLIC
UTILITIES
CORPORATION

260 Cherry Hill Road
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E.Y

November 30, 1978

The Hon. Joel R. Jacobson, Commissioner
Department of Energy
State of New Jersey
101 Commerce Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

The Hon. George H. Barbour, President
Board of Public Utility Commissioners
State of New Jersey
101 Commerce Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102

The Hon. W. Wilson Goode, Chairman
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Post Office Box 3265
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Gentlemen:

Due to the extensive interest shown by the Commissions in the status of Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 2, particularly as to when the unit will be ready to be placed in commercial service, we are providing an updated status on the unit.

The unit is currently starting up from a maintenance period and we expect to achieve full rated generator output by next week. Testing at the 100 per cent power level, which culminates in a full load generator trip, is scheduled to be completed by December 12. The unit should be ready to be declared commercial following return from the full load generator trip. We do not know of any remaining items which are likely to require a scheduled outage prior to the first refueling.

As recently as November 21, we still expected to be within a couple of days of our scheduled November 30, 1978 in-service date but further delay was encountered when equipment problems led to contamination of the feedwater system with turbine lubricating oil. Although the amount of oil was very slight, extensive efforts were necessary to ensure it was removed from all systems which may have been contaminated by the oil.

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The full load generator trip will mark completion of a start-up and test program which has applied to all unit structures, systems and components necessary to conduct commercial operations. It was planned so as to fully exercise all of the plant equipment under carefully controlled and monitored conditions and thereby identify any deficiencies in design or construction. The end objective of the test program has been to verify that the plant performs in full conformance with all operating and licensing specifications.

The program consists of 170 individual tests, all of which required a specific, detailed procedure. Approximately half of these tests relate to systems with nuclear safety implications and, consequently, were subject to NRC regulatory requirements. Within that group, NRC staff personnel reviewed both the procedures and the test results in many instances. The NRC required the conduct of very extensive testing of the plant as a whole, and of its individual systems, subject to rigid administrative and technical controls, and independent surveillance, review and audits. These same controls also were utilized in conducting the portion of the test program not subject to NRC regulations.

To date, the unit has operated at 75 per cent power or greater for over 200 hours and has produced almost 300,000 MWH's. It will have produced about 500,000 MWH's upon completion of the test program.

We believe that completion of this program will provide assurance that the unit is capable of producing significant energy and is then ready to be placed in commercial service.

Sincerely,

William G. Kuhns
Chairman

WGK:mn

cc: The Hon. Robert K. Bloom
The Hon. Louis J. Carter
The Hon. Michael Johnson
The Hon. Helen B. C'Bannon
The Hon. Edward Hynes
The Hon. Richard McGlynn

W. Gural
M. P. Widoff

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