



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

December 18, 1989

Docket No. 50-289

Mr. Henry D. Hukill, Vice President
and Director - TMI-1
GPU Nuclear Corporation
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Dear Mr. Hukill:

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION OF THE THREE MILE ISLAND UNIT 1
RESPONSE TO THE STATION BLACKOUT RULE (10 CFR 50.63)

By letter dated April 17, 1989, GPU Nuclear submitted the TMI-1 response to the Station Blackout Rule (SBO). The response has been reviewed by the NRC staff. Enclosed is our evaluation of your SBO response. Based on our review, we conclude that the proposed hardware and procedural modifications provide reasonable assurance that full compliance with the Station Blackout Rule will be attained.

Your April 17, 1989 response committed to an expected completion schedule for the required plant modifications and associated procedural changes and training by the end of refueling outage 9R provided NRC acceptance of the proposed coping method is received by October 17, 1989. Our review of the SBO response was completed by that date and our finding of acceptability was conveyed to Mr. R. McGuey by telecon prior to this date. Therefore, we consider this schedule to be firm and that our acceptance was conveyed by the required date.

The following areas may be audited by the staff to verify implementation of the proposed modifications and the supporting documentation. A guidance document on post implementation inspection is being developed by the staff.

- 1) Hardware and procedural modifications associated with the AAC source.
- 2) Assuring the AAC source powers the control room area HVAC systems and that the control room remains fully functional and manned.
- 3) Correctness of the EDG reliability data in accordance with R.G. 1.155.
- 4) Preparation and implementation of the plant SBO procedures in accordance with R.G. 1.155 and NUMARC 87-00.
- 5) Requirement for operator staffing and training to follow the identified actions in the SBO procedures.
- 6) Implementation of a quality assurance program and technical specifications for the SBO equipment as guided by R.G. 1.155.

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Mr. H. D. Hukill

- 2 -

The guidance provided on Technical Specifications (TS) for SBO states that TS should be consistent with the Interim Commission Policy Statement on Technical Specifications. Our current position is that TS are required for SBO equipment. However, the question of how TS for the SBO equipment will be applied is currently being considered generically by the NRC in the context of the Technical Specification Improvement Program and remains as an open item at this time. In the interim, the staff expects plant procedures to reflect the appropriate testing and surveillance requirements to ensure the operability of the necessary SBO equipment. If the staff later determines that a TS regarding the SBO equipment is warranted, GPU Nuclear will be notified of the implementation requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John F. Stolz".

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

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

December 18, 1989

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Sincerely,

/s/

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

Enclosure:
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Document Name: RESPONSE TO SBO RULE TMI1

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GPU Nuclear Corporation

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station,
Unit No. 1

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