



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

January 10, 1990

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: SCOPE OF TMI-1 CONDITION OF OPERATION 1(b) (TAC NO. 40300)

Your letter dated August 30, 1989 addressed GPU Nuclear Corporation's understanding of the scope of Condition of Operation 1(b) imposed by the NPC staff on TMI-1 at the time of restart in October 1985. This condition states that TMI-1 solid waste handling capabilities shall not be relied upon for the decontamination or restoration of TMI-2. Your letter also advised us of certain planned activities that would involve use of TMI-1 facilities to process material contaminated at TMI-2. These activities would include use of the TMI-1 laboratory to analyze TMI-2 samples, use of tools and instruments having residual contamination from TMI-2 at TMI-1, use of common shipping containers for radioactive waste from both units and consolidation of decontamination facilities.

As noted in your letter, imposition of Condition of Operation 1(b) resulted from the Commission-ordered restart proceedings for TMI-1 before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB). The ASLB had concerns regarding reliance upon TMI-1 solid waste handling systems and facilities in the decontamination or restoration of TMI-2 and the possible impact that such reliance might have on safe operation of TMI-1. The ASLB therefore required the subject condition as a continuing requirement for restart and operation of TMI-1. While the condition in question was imposed as a requirement for restart and operation, the TMI-1 operating license was not amended because the restart proceeding did not involve an application to amend the license.

We have reviewed your August 30, 1989 letter in the context of the ASLB hearing record and the Board's concerns. The ASLB was directed by the Commission to consider the potential effect of operations necessary to decontaminate TMI-2 on the safe operation of TMI-1 as well as potential interaction between the two units. During the proceedings, GPU Nuclear Corporation was required to demonstrate the adequacy of the waste handling capabilities at the TMI site and to

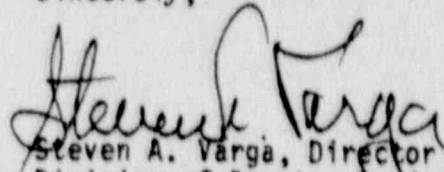
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provide separation of radioactive liquid transfer lines, fuel handling areas, ventilation systems and sample lines between the two units. The ASLB finding (14 NRC 1211, 1427) states that "[p]otential effects of Unit 2 activities on Unit 1 operation could arise either from a failure to maintain the Unit 2 reactor in a safe condition or from a radioactive release associated with the decontamination or restoration activities." Although the Board found that the waste handling capabilities at both units were adequate, certain issues regarding solidification of TMI-2 solid waste had not been finalized at that time as discussed in your letter. The Board therefore requested the subject condition dealing with solid waste only.

Our review of the basis for the subject condition of operation found nothing that would preclude the types of activities discussed in your August 30, 1989 letter. Therefore, the staff agrees with GPU Nuclear's understanding of Condition of Operation 1(b) as stated in your letter.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Varga, Director
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

Mr. Henry D. Hukill
GPU Nuclear Corporation

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station,
Unit No. 1

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DATED: JANUARY 10, 1990

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Mr. H. D. Hukill

- 2 -

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Sincerely,

/s/

Steven A. Varga, Director
Division of Reactor Projects 1/11
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

*see previous concurrence

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