

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

(GPU NUCLEAR CORPORATION AND
JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT
COMPANY)(Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating
Station)

Docket No. 50-219

EXEMPTION

I.

The GPU Nuclear Corporation and Jersey Central Power & Light Company (GPUN/ the licensee) are the holders of Provisional Operating License No. DPR-16, which authorizes operation of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, (the facility) at steady state reactor core power levels not in excess of 1930 megawatts thermal. The license provides, among other things, that Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station is subject to all rules, regulations, and Orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

The plant is boiling water reactor (BWR) located at the licensee's site in Ocean County, New Jersey.

II.

On November 19, 1980, the NRC published a revised Code of Federal Regulations, Section 10 CFR 50.48 and a new Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 regarding fire protection features of nuclear power plants. The revised Section 50.48 and Appendix R became effective on February 17, 1981. Section III of Appendix R contains fifteen (15) subsections, lettered A through O, each of which specifies requirements for a particular aspect of the fire protection features at a nuclear power plant. One of these fifteen subsections, III.J, is the subject of this exemption request. Specifically, Section III.J requires emergency lighting units of 8-hour capacity be provided for all areas needed for operation of safe shutdown equipment and for access and egress routes thereto.

III.

By letter dated November 24, 1986, the licensee requested an exemption from the requirements of Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to move into the control room the d.c. power source (batteries or battery/charges units) for the control room emergency lights. The basis for the requested exemption is that two lighting systems are installed in the control room. Each system has its own independent power supply. In addition, the power supplies and electrical circuits to the two lighting systems are so separated that no single fire outside the control room will damage both. This arrangement assures continuous lighting in the control room in the event of any postulated fire occurring in the plant.

The staff has reviewed the licensee's request and the supporting technical information contained in the licensee's November 24, 1986 letter. The staff agrees with GPU Nuclear Corporation's conclusion that the existing two lighting systems with independent and separate power supplies and circuits provided for the control room are fully acceptable. The staff also agrees that the installation of individual 8-hour capacity battery powered emergency lighting units in the control room would not significantly improve fire safety in the plant.

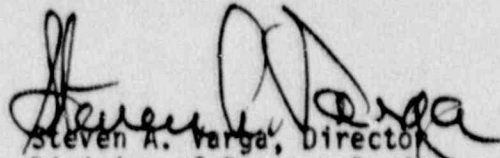
IV.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, this exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. The Commission has further determined that special circumstances, as set forth in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), are present justifying the exemption, namely that the application of the regulation in the particular circumstances is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule. Accordingly, the Commission hereby grants an exemption as described in Section III above from the requirements of Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (55 FR 4497).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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

Dated at Rockville, Maryland
this 12th day of February, 1990