



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

August 17, 1981

Mr. Herman Dieckamp, President
General Public Utilities Corporation
100 Interpace Parkway
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

Dear Mr. Dieckamp:

This letter is in response to your letter of August 12, 1981 to Mr. Dircks regarding operator examinations for the re-start of TMI-1.

I have concluded that retesting of the remaining TMI reactor operators and senior reactor operator candidates with complete written examinations is required on the basis that cheating was detected in the April examinations and there were rumors that other cheating may have taken place. Although our investigation, including a comparison of all examination papers, has not disclosed any substantiated evidence of other cheating, the existence of at least the instances discovered raises questions about the opportunity and possibility of other cheating in these examinations. Furthermore, others who know or may become aware of the rumors of other cheating, may feel the cheating was being condoned, unless a re-examination is required for the entire group.

I regret that I have to take this action but am convinced that we have no practical alternative if we are to be fully confident that all persons who pass the NRC examinations are qualified to operate the plant. This is particularly important at TMI because there was an implication that inadequate training and qualification played a significant role in the accident. It is imperative that the NRC, as well as the public, have complete confidence in the senior reactor operators and reactor operators at TMI.

We plan to administer this retesting a few days in advance of the plant walk-through and oral examinations currently scheduled for September.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation