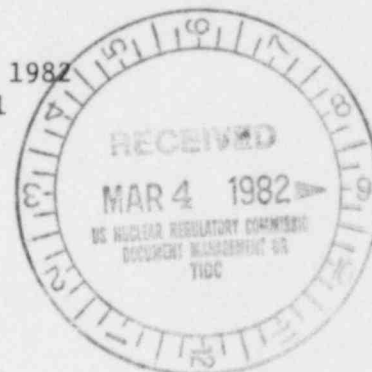


GPU Nuclear
P.O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057
717-944-7621
Writer's Direct Dial Number:

February 26, 1982
4400-82-L-0031



Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attn: Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (TMI-2)
Operating License No. DPR-73
Docket No. 50-320
Request to Vacate May 22, 1979 Record Retention Order

On May 22, 1979, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("Commission") issued an order relating to the preservation of records pertaining to the Three Mile Island, Unit 2 ("TMI-2") accident. See 44 Fed. Reg. 30788 (May 29, 1979). The order gave notice that the Commission had begun a "wide-ranging investigation into all aspects of the Three Mile Island accident", and that "[i]n order to assure the effectiveness of the investigation it is essential that the investigators have access to every potential source of data that may be relevant to their work". Accordingly, the Commission directed that, until further order, "all records that may be related to the accident at Three Mile Island, or to understanding of all events incident thereto, shall be preserved intact by persons in possession of such records * * *."

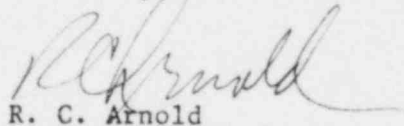
The May 22, 1979 order still remains in effect, even though the Commission's special investigation has been completed and all associated reports have been issued. To our knowledge, there presently are no ongoing investigations into the TMI-2 accident; nor are we aware of any future investigations currently planned. We therefore request that the Commission enter an order vacating its May 22, 1979 order and releasing the affected records. This would allow the Licensee to reestablish its normal course of business and retain business documents in accordance with existing regulatory retention criteria.

In many cases the Commission's May 22, 1979 order has required the Licensee and its contractors to maintain actual physical samples, notwithstanding that the samples have been counted and the data have been recorded and analyzed. In other cases, the May 22, 1979 order has required the preservation of computer storage disks and tapes even though the data have been transferred to hard copy and/or microfilm. Given the limits on available storage space, Licensee can perceive no reason for continuing to maintain and store such information.

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The Commission's May 22, 1979 order explicitly contemplated that the Commission would issue a subsequent order authorizing release of the records once the purposes to be served by the initial order had been accomplished. It is now almost three years since the TMI-2 accident and we believe no purpose is served by continuing extraordinary procedures to preserve information that has been available to, and carefully reviewed by, those conducting investigations of the TMI-2 accident.

Sincerely,



R. C. Arnold
President, GPU Nuclear

RCA:JJB:djb

cc: Dr. B. J. Snyder, Program Director, TMI Program Office
Mr. L. H. Barrett, Deputy Program Director, TMI Program Office
Mr. Irwin B. Rothchild III, Esquire, Office of General Counsel
Mr. Stephen H. Lewis, Esquire, Office of the Executive Legal Director