

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
GPU NUCLEAR CORPORATION AND JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
DOCKET NO. 50-219
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of schedular and permanent exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J to the GPU Nuclear Corporation and Jersey Central Power & Light Company (GPUN or the licensee) for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station located at the licensee's site in Ocean County, New Jersey.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant schedular exemptions from 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J for the requirements of Section III.D.2(a), Type B test, and Section III.D.3, Type C test. The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's request for exemption dated March 2, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

One of the conditions of all operating licenses for water-cooled power reactors, as specified in 10 CFR 50.54(o), is that primary reactor containments shall meet the containment leakage test requirements set forth in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J.

The licensee has proposed the requested exemptions because performing the Type B and C test as required by Appendix J would require a reactor shutdown prior to the next refueling outage.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemptions would postpone the Type B and C test approximately 4 months. The NRC staff has reviewed the proposed exemptions and concluded the extension of the test period for the Type B and C test will not compromise containment integrity. This conclusion is based on the finding that leakage characteristics of the penetrations and valves in question would not be expected to degrade significantly during the period of the requested extension, which is short in comparison with the 2-year test interval specified in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J.

Thus, radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously and the proposed exemptions do not otherwise affect facility radiological effluent or occupational exposures. With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemptions do not affect plant nonradiological effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes there are no measurable radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemptions, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the schedular exemptions would be to deny the exemptions requested. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in an additional thermal cycle for the plant, as well as the potential environmental impact of a winter shutdown.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the Final Environmental Statement for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

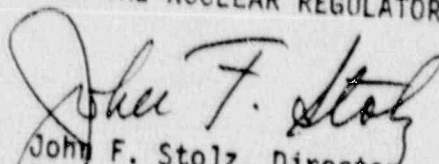
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemptions.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated March 2, 1990. This letter is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Ocean County Library, Reference Department, 101 Washington Street, Toms River, New Jersey 08753.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 14th day of August, 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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

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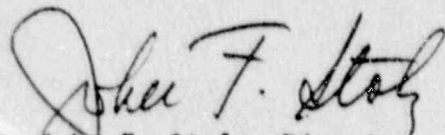
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DISTRIBUTION Dated August 14, 1990

~~Docket File~~

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