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Writer's Direct Dial Number:

March 26, 1994  
C311-94-2147

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Att: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sir:

Subject: Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1)  
Operating License No. DPR-50  
Docket No. 50-289  
Cycle 10 Control Rod Drop Times

Pursuant to discussions with NRC on March 25, 1994 GPU Nuclear commits to the following conditions applicable to Cycle 10 startup from the current unplanned shutdown and for the remainder of Cycle 10 operation.

1. GPU Nuclear requests that Technical Specification Change Request (TSCR) No. 242 submitted March 22, 1994 be withdrawn. Exigent circumstances regarding control rod drop time test criteria no longer exist, as all control rods are currently within existing Technical Specification requirements.
2. GPU Nuclear will perform the following short term corrective actions to minimize crud buildup within the control rod drive mechanism.
  - A. Increase lithium concentration in the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) to raise pH to reduce the rate of corrosion.
  - B. Control rod drive mechanisms will be exercised every two weeks during the remainder of Cycle 10 to reduce the likelihood of crud buildup in the gap between the lead screw and the thermal barrier bushing.
  - C. Control rod drop times will be obtained within three months of Reactor startup.

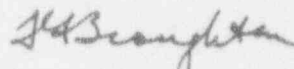
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3. Within two months of the date of this letter GPU Nuclear will submit our evaluation criteria and a contingency plan to be utilized for the control rod drop time test described in 2C above.
4. If TMI-1 experiences an unplanned shutdown prior to the control rod drop time test described in 2C above, TMI-1 will verify that all control rods are within the existing Technical Specification acceptance criteria of 1.66 seconds.
5. If during control rod drop time testing conducted in accordance with Items 2C and 4 above, any control rods exceed the 1.66 second drop time criteria, such rods will not be exercised prior to obtaining NRC approval.
6. If during control rod drop time testing conducted in accordance with Items 2C and 4 above, any control rods fail the 1.66 second drop time criteria, NRC approval may allow exercising these rods to within drop time criteria. If NRC approval is not obtained to exercise these rods, or these rods cannot be exercised to within the 1.66 second drop time criteria, at least one control rod drive mechanism will be removed and inspected.
7. Within six months of the date of this letter, GPU Nuclear will provide a long term plan to address necessary actions to improve control rod drive mechanism performance and reliability. The intent of this plan is to ensure that control rods will continue to satisfy the current Technical Specification drop time criteria of 1.66 seconds.

As agreed, TMI-1 plans to return to power operation on March 26, 1994.

Sincerely,



T. G. Broughton

DJD/plp

cc: Region I Administrator  
TMI-1 Senior Project Manager  
TMI Senior Resident Inspector  
Director, Project Directorate I-4  
Director, Division of Reactor Projects, Region I