

DCS

APR 20 1994

Docket/License: 50-289/DPR-50

Mr. T. Gary Broughton
Vice President and Director, TMI
GPU Nuclear Corporation
Three Mile Island Nuclear Station
Post Office Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057-0191

Dear Mr. Broughton:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-289/94-04

This letter transmits the findings of the resident safety inspection conducted by Ms. M. Evans and Mr. D. Beaulieu from March 1, 1994 - April 4, 1994, at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 1. Areas relevant to the health and safety of the public examined during this inspection are described in the NRC Inspection Report. The inspectors based these findings on observations of activities, interviews, and document reviews and discussed them with you and other members of your staff. Inspector observations indicated safe and conservative operation.

During the period, you identified that the pressurizer spray valve fasteners had experienced degradation due to boric acid corrosion. We determined that your planning for and conduct of the shutdown to repair the spray valve were effectively performed and judged as a strength. Management involvement in the entire process was also a strength. We understand that you are currently investigating the root cause for this degradation and that your staff is preparing a Plant Experience Report. We view your corrective actions in this area to be important and intend to further review them.

Following the March 17, 1994 shutdown, you found that 12 control rods exceeded the Technical Specification limit for drop time. We found that you could have been more conservative had you chose to disassemble and inspect one of the control rods to determine the root cause of the increased drop times. Your evaluation to support an increase in the allowable rod insertion time for all rods combined with a probable root cause, did allow us to determine that minimal risk to public health and safety existed. Your commitment to resolve the issue is contained in Confirmatory Action Letter 1-94-004, dated March 29, 1994.

This report discusses a licensee identified violation which is not being cited because our review found that this issue was promptly raised to management attention, was of low safety significance, and was followed up with prompt and effective corrective actions. The issue involved the failure to properly implement your procedure change approval process. If you

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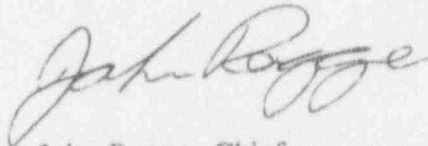
Mr. T. Gary Broughton

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had properly implemented the process, you may have identified that a temporary change to a surveillance procedure resulted in isolation of the common recirculating line for all three emergency feedwater (EFW) pumps. Without timely manual action, this could have resulted in the total loss of EFW. Our decision to not cite this item is based on the NRC enforcement policy goal of encouraging licensees to aggressively and thoroughly pursue self-identification and correction of problems.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,



John Rogge, Chief
Projects Section No. 4B
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report No. 50-289/94-04

cc w/encl:

M. J. Ross, Director, Operations and Maintenance
J. C. Fornicola, Director, Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
J. S. Wetmore, Manager, TMI Licensing Department
E. L. Blake, Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge (Legal Counsel for GPUN)
TMI-Alert (TMIA)
K. Abraham, PAO (2)
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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Mr. T. Gary Broughton

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bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

J. Rogge, DRP

bcc w/encl (VIA E-MAIL):

V. McCree, OEDO

J. Stolz, PD I-4, NRR

R. Hernan, PD I-4, NRR

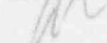
M. Shannon, NRR/ILPB

S. Showe, TTC

K. Raglin, TTC

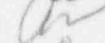
RI:DRP

Evans


4/19/94

RI:DRP

Rogge


4/20/94

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