

January 28, 1991

Docket No. 50-289

Mr. Henry D. Hukill, Vice President
and Director - TMI-1
GPU Nuclear Corporation
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Dear Mr. Hukill:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE TO ASME SECTION XI REQUIREMENTS FOR VOLUMETRIC
AND SURFACE EXAMINATIONS OF REACTOR VESSEL NOZZLE TO PIPE WELDS
(TAC NO. 79251)

By letter dated October 26, 1990, GPU Nuclear Corporation requested relief from the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, requirements for a surface examination of the core flood nozzle to safe-end welds connected to the reactor vessel. This request proposed an alternative method of enhanced ultrasonic testing (UT). The staff has completed its review of this request. A copy of the safety evaluation is enclosed.

Based on our review, we have determined that the testing for which this relief has been requested is impractical to perform and that the alternative requirement for enhanced UT is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest. In making this determination, we have given due consideration to the burden that would result if the surface examinations were imposed on your facility.

The relief is granted as requested pursuant to 10 CFR Part 50.55a(g)(6)(i) and 50.55a(a)(3)(ii).

Sincerely,

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John F. Stolz, Director
Project Directorate I-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/11
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
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Mr. Henry D. Hukill
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Three Mile Island Nuclear Station,
Unit No. 1

cc:

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