

Docket No. 50-289

JUN 29 1994

Mr. T. Gary Broughton
Vice President and Director, TMI-1
GPU Nuclear Corporation
Three Mile Island Nuclear Station
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057-0191

Dear Mr. Broughton:

SUBJECT: THREE MILE ISLAND INSPECTION 94-08

This letter transmits the findings of the announced safety inspection conducted by Mr. R. A. Fernandes of this office during the period of May 23 - May 27, 1994, at the GPU Nuclear Power Station, Three Mile Island Unit 1, Middletown, Pennsylvania. Mr. R. A. Fernandes discussed the findings of the inspection with Mr. G. Skillman and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Areas examined during this inspection are described in the NRC Region I inspection report, enclosed with this letter. The inspection was directed primarily toward your boric acid corrosion prevention program, and included activities surrounding the recent event in which you shut down to repair a leaking pressurizer spray valve (Inspection Report No. 50-289/94-04). Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector.

Within the scope of this inspection, no violations or deviations were observed. The boric acid corrosion program meets the minimum requirements of Generic Letter 88-05. However, several weaknesses were identified by the inspector and are described in detail in the enclosed report. Weaknesses identified include the lack of program documentation, program awareness, and program preventive guidance to ensure maintenance is performed on components identified as susceptible before leakage can cause significant corrosion damage. Additionally, there is no formal or documented centralized collection or evaluation group, or a formal feedback mechanism for evaluation of leaks identified by non-surveillance testing activities. These programmatic weaknesses may lead to the reduced assurance that the reactor coolant pressure boundary will have an extremely low probability of abnormal leakage, rapid propagating failure, or gross rupture.

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JUN 29 1994

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There is one unresolved item regarding your inservice inspection (ISI) program and the recent events surrounding the pressurizer spray valve. The inspector determined that the pressurizer spray valve, RC-V-1, may have been omitted during the first ISI interval. However, not all of the information was available at the time of the inspection and requires further investigation, and will remain as an unresolved item (URI 94-08-01).

Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Michael C. Modes, Chief
Materials Section
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report No. 50-289/94-08
w/Attachment 1

cc w/encl:

R. E. Rogan, TMI Licensing Director

M. J. Ross, Operations and Maintenance Director, TMI-1

J. Fornicola, Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Director

TMI-1 Licensing Department

E. L. Blake, Jr., Esquire

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

JUN 29 1994

Mr. T. Gary Broughton

3

bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

J. Wiggins, DRS

DRS Files


bcc w/encl (VIA E-MAIL):


V. McCree, OEDO


J. Stolz, PD 1-4, NRR

R. Hernan, PD 1-4, NRR

RI:DRS
Fernandes


6/19/94


RI:DRS
Moses


6/15/94

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