

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGPU NUCLEAR CORPORATION, ET AL.DOCKET NO. 50-289ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to GPU Nuclear Corporation (the licensee) for Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1 (TMI-1) located in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption is related to Section III.D.3 of Appendix J to 10 CFR 50. Appendix J is concerned with primary reactor containment leakage testing for water-cooled power reactors. Section III.D.3 states that Type C tests shall be performed during each reactor shutdown for refueling but in no case at intervals greater than two years. The two-year interval for selected valves ends February 23, 1986. The licensee requested schedular exemptions for 71 valves. The one-time only schedular exemption would allow the licensee to conduct testing at the first outage of sufficient duration past February 23, 1986. The next presently scheduled outage will begin near the end of March 1986. However, if the balance of the leak rate testing is not completed by August 23, 1986, the licensee will shutdown in order to complete it.

The exemption is responsive to the licensee's letter requesting exemption dated October 22, 1985.

The Need for the Proposed Action: Barring an unforeseen shutdown of sufficient duration, these schedule requirements cannot be met for the 71 valves listed in the licensee's application without bringing the plant to cold

shutdown conditions solely for the purpose of completing local leak rate testing by the required dates. TMI-1 is presently engaged in Restart Test Program activities following the shutdown order which remains in effect for 6½ years. The Restart Test Program includes zero and low power physics tests, natural circulation tests, and other tests in a slow controlled power escalation test sequence which is followed by about 90 days of operations prior to shutting down for the steam generator eddy current outage in compliance with License Amendment No. 103. To place the plant in cold shutdown only for local leak rate testing purposes would unnecessarily interrupt the Restart test sequence and Once Through Steam Generator test run. It would also subject the plant to an unnecessary thermal cycle whereas a planned outage for eddy current testing will occur within a reasonably short time after the original required date.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: Although TMI-1 has not operated since March 1979, the licensee has conducted four series of local leak rate testing during the 6½ year span. The results of the last local leak rate testing were reported to the Commission on July 19, 1984, and show that the actual total leakage was less than one third the total allowed leakage. The proposed schedular exemption would add a maximum of six months to the testing schedule. Given the historical data available, it is reasonable to predict that the total leakage will not exceed Technical Specification limits with the six-month delay.

In addition, the schedular exemption would not change the types or allow an increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite.

Since there is no increase in the allowed leakage limitations and no predictable leakage in excess of allowed values, the exemption would not result in an increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted areas as defined in 10 CFR 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (construction permit and operating license) for Three Mile Island, Unit 1.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

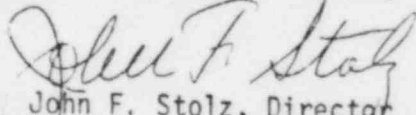
#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the letter requesting the exemption dated October 22, 1985, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, Education Building, Commonwealth and Walnut Streets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 21st day of January 1986.

  
John F. Stolz, Director  
PWR Project Directorate #6  
Division of PWR Licensing-B