

October 2, 1998

EA No. 98-456

Mr. J. Langenbach  
Vice President and Director  
GPU Nuclear, Inc.  
Three Mile Island Nuclear Station  
P. O. Box 480  
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057-0480

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-289/98-05

Dear Mr. Langenbach:

On September 19, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at your Three Mile Island Unit 1 reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection which the resident inspectors discussed with you and your staff at the October 2, 1998 exit meeting.

Your staff continued to operate the unit safely. Operators performed well during routine tasks including log taking and surveillance testing. Planned maintenance activities on the station blackout emergency diesel went well, and incorporated the use of risk reduction techniques. Your corrective action program functioned to identify issues that needed attention and to prioritize, track, and provide corrective actions, as needed. The engineering organization provided good support to daily activities. The design issues with the offsite power sources were properly identified and reported, with good immediate corrective actions taken. A security program inspection identified no safety concerns, and found that you implemented an effective security program that protects against acts of radiological sabotage.

We identified a weakness in your actions to correct known deficiencies in the calibration of the makeup tank level instruments, that existed between May 1997 and August 1998. These deficiencies included an improper assessment of makeup pump operability, problems with the tracking of open commitments to correct known deficiencies, and the failure to implement calibrations in a timely manner following setpoint calculation changes. These issues will be considered, with another makeup tank pressure/level concern discussed in NRC Inspection Report 98-06, as an apparent violation, pending NRC determination of the overall effect on the operability of the pumps. You will be contacted by separate correspondence concerning our determination on how these issues will be handled within the enforcement process.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Peter W. Eselgroth, Chief  
Projects Branch No. 7  
Division of Reactor Projects

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Mr. J. Langenbach

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Docket No.: 50-289

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report No. 50-289-98/05

cc w/encl:

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D. Smith, PDMS Manager

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TMI-Alert (TMIA)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. J. Langenbach

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