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March 17, 1986 NRC/TMI-86-024

Docket No. 50-320

Mr. F. R. Standerfer Vice President/Director Three Mile Island Unit 2 GPU Nuclear Corporation P. O. Box 480 Middletown, PA 17057

Dear Mr. Standerfer:

Subject: Defueling Water Cleanup System Technical Evaluation Report

- References: (a) Letter 4410-85-L-0192, F. Standerfer to B. Snyder, Defueling Water Cleanup System Technical Evaluation Report, dated September 27, 1985
 - (b) Letter 4410-86-L-0011, F. Standerfer to W. Travers, Defueling Water Cleanup System Technical Evaluation Report, dated February 7, 1986
 - (c) Letter NRC/TMI-85-055, W. Travers to F. Standerfer, Defueling Water Cleanup System, dated August 6, 1985

References (a) and (b) forwarded for NRC staff approval, revisions to the Defueling Water Cleanup System (DWCS) Technical Evaluation Report (TER), and the corresponding revisions to the associated System Descriptions (SD). The NRC staff safety evaluation and approval of the previous TER are documented in reference (c).

The revisions include minor wording changes for clarification, discussion of system modifications to connect to the defueling canister dewatering system. modifications to connect to the canister decontamination system. modifications that replace the suction hoses on the reactor vessel filtration pumps with hard pipe, and installation of a main filter canister bypass capability.

We have completed our review of the proposed modifications discussed in the revised TER. We have determined that the revisions do not alter our previous conclusions discussed in reference (c) provided the additional administrative controls discussed below are implemented when operating the DWCS in a mode which bypasses the main filter canisters.

The original system design included post filters in the process stream going to the ion exchangers. The post filters served as an additional barrier to prevent fuel fines from reaching the ion exchange media in the event of filter

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break-through in the main filter canisters. Your proposed operating mode which bypasses the main filter canisters would result in the post filters being the only barrier to fuel transport to the ion exchangers. Although this does not present a significant criticality concern due to the presence of borated water, it does present a concern for future disposal of the ion exchange media because of the potential for contamination with transuranic (TRU) material in either excessive or unknown concentrations. We agree with your assessment that the probability of fuel transport to the ion exchangers due to post filter failure is reduced by your proposal to reduce the allowable differential pressure across the post filters during main filter bypass operation. However, we believe additional controls are necessary and have discussed this issue with members of your staff. Pursuant to the discussions between our respective staffs, we approve the modifications described in the revised DWCS TER through revision number 9, and we approve operation of the system in a mode bypassing the main filter canisters provided the following procedural controls are implemented:

- (1) The preferred mode of operation when bypassing the main filter canisters will be to return the post filter effluent directly to its source, or to process through the Submerged Demineralizer System rather than processing through the DWCS ion exchangers.
- (2) If it is necessary to process the post filter effluent through the DWCS ion exchangers, it will be done under the control of a process control plan with adequate provisions to accurately assess the quantity of TRU material deposited on the ion exchange media.

Operation of the system will be contingent upon your submittal of the applicable procedures subject to an approval per Technical Specification 6.8.2.

Sincerely.

William D. Travers

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William D. Travers Director TMI-2 Cleanup Project Directorate

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