

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGPU NUCLEAR CORPORATIONDOCKET NO. 50-320ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDINGOF NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 70.24, criticality accident requirements relative to Facility Operating license No. DPR-73, issued to GPU Nuclear Corporation (the licensee), for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (TMI-2), located in Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. By Order for Modification of License, dated July 20, 1979, the licensee's authority to operate the facility was suspended and the licensee's authority was limited to maintenance of the facility in the shutdown cooling mode (44 FR 45271). By further Order of the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, date February 11, 1980, a new set of formal license requirements was imposed by order to reflect the post-accident condition of the facility and to assure the continued maintenance of the safe, stable, long-term cooling condition of the facility (45 FR 11292). These license conditions and those imposed by subsequent orders were formally incorporated in the TMI-2 license on January 27, 1987. The license provides, among other things, that it is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The action being considered by the Commission is exemption from 10 CFR 70.24 requirement for a monitoring system capable of detecting a criticality accident in special nuclear materials (SNM) storage areas. The need for such a system at TMI-2 is obviated by the use of safe mass limits and safe geometries in the SNM storage areas.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The exemption is necessary to grant relief from criticality monitoring requirements that are burdensome and not needed for safety purposes.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action will have no environmental impact as it only affects the installation or lack thereof of electronic instrumentation in SNM storage areas. Thus, this exemption will not change the types, or allow an increase in the amounts of effluents that may be released to the environment. Individual and cumulative occupational radiation exposure would actually decrease slightly as the need to use radioactive sources to periodically calibrate the criticality monitors would be obviated. The SNM storage areas will be criticality safe by mass limit and geometric limits. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within restricted areas as defined by 10 CFR Part 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.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental effects associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested action; this would increase the environmental impact by increasing occupational radiation exposure to personnel calibrating the instruments using radiation sources.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for TMI-2 dated March 1981 as supplemented.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

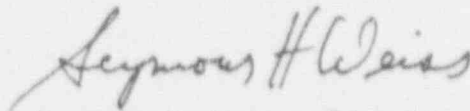
Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the NRC staff concludes that this action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the letter from GPUN, Request for Exemption from 10 CFR 70.24, dated May 21, 1987. This document is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W. Washington D.C. 20555, and at the local public document room located at the State Library of

Pennsylvania, Government Publications Section, Education Building, Commonwealth and Walnut Streets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 8th day of June 1992.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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