

February 21, 1990

Docket No. 50-289

Mr. Henry D. Hukill, Vice President
and Director - TMI-1
GPU Nuclear Corporation
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Dear Mr. Hukill:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
EXEMPTION FROM THE LUBE OIL COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN
SECTION III.0 OF APPENDIX R TO 10 CFR PART 50 (TAC NO. 75303)

Enclosed is the Environmental Assessment which relates to your request dated
October 20, 1989, for exemption from the lube oil collection requirements
contained in Section III.0 of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50.

This assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for
publication.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ronald W. Hernan, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Three Mile Island Nuclear Station,
Unit No. 1

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONMETROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANYJERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANYPENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANYGPU NUCLEAR CORPORATIONTHREE MILE ISLAND UNIT 1DOCKET NO. 50-289ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Section III.0 of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to GPU Nuclear Corporation, (the licensee) for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1), located at the licensee's site in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The licensee is requesting an exemption from the requirements of Section III.0 of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, "Oil Collection System for Reactor Coolant Pump." The exemption would allow not having a lube oil collection system (for spills and leakage) beneath certain sections of new piping in the reactor coolant pump (RCP) oil system. The licensee's request and bases for exemption are contained in a letter dated October 20, 1989.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed because the features described in the licensee's request regarding the existing and proposed fire protection at the plant for this item are the most practical method for meeting the intent of Appendix R

and literal compliance would not significantly enhance the fire protection capability. The exemption request arises from a proposed piping modification in the RCP motor lube oil fill system that will result in a decrease in occupational radiation exposure and an increased margin in occupational safety when adding oil to this system.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption will provide a degree of fire protection such that there is no increase in the risk of fires at this facility. Although literal interpretation of Section III.0 of Appendix R would require an oil collection system to completely encompass the RCP lube oil system piping, it is not practical in this case to completely encompass all sections of new piping added as a result of the proposed modification. The licensee has proposed compensatory measures, both in the design of the piping modification and in operating procedures. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the potential post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. 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 within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impacts. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

It has been concluded that there is no measurable impact associated with the proposed exemption; any alternatives to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1.

Agencies and Person Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concluded that the proposed 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 request for exemption dated October 20, 1989, which 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 Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue, Box 1601, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of February 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


John F. Stolz, Director
Project Directorate I-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation