February 15, 1983 NRC/TMI 83-013

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Docket No. 50-320

Mr. B. K. Kanga Director, TMI-2 GPU Nuclear Corporation P. O. Box 480 Middletown, PA 17057

dletown, PA 17057 Service List

Dear Hr. Kanga:

Subject: TMI-2 RCS Draindown to the 328' Elevation for Further Under Head Characterization

The THIPO staff has reviewed your proposed plan (letter, B. Kanga to L. Barrett, 4410-83-L-0035, same subject, dated February 14, 1983) for draining the reactor coolant system to the 328' elevation and lowering an ion-chamber into the reactor vessel. We understand that GPU has determined this proposed operation is encompassed by the "Quick Look" (camera inspection) Safety Evaluation Report which the NRC previously approved on July 13, 1982.

The NRC staff finds that your proposed plan is acceptable in that the safety related issues associated with venting potentially combustible gases into the RB, depressurizing the RCS and lowering the water level to 328' elevation have been previously addressed in our safety assessment. The staff also finds the insertion of the ion-chamber (dose rate monitor) through CRDM E-9 into the reactor vessel (down to the fuel rubble bed) is comparable to the TV camera insertion activity which we previously approved and therefore is also acceptable.

For those activities which involve lowering water levels below the 328' elevation additional safety evaluations will be required.

The RCS draindown to the 328' elevation can be performed following our approval of your operating procedures (as per Technical Specification 6.8.2).

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Lake H. Barrett Deputy Program Director TMI Program Office

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cc: J. J. Barton L. P. King J. E. Larson