

January 21, 1986
NRC/TMI 86-008

Mr. F. R. Standerfer
Vice President/Director, TMI-2
GPU Nuclear Corporation
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

Subject: Use of Debris Canisters

Reference (a) forwarded, for NRC staff concurrence, GPU Nuclear's proposal to use modified fuel canisters as temporary containers for removal of fuel assembly upper end fittings, control component spiders, or other structural material from the TMI-2 reactor vessel. The containers will be assembled on site using spare or rejected components from canister vendors and will be designed so that they are easily differentiated from the fuel canisters. Reference (a) discussed the safety issues relating to criticality, combustible gas generation, container pressurization, lifting and handling, fuel pool contamination, and prevention of inadvertent shipment of debris containers.

The staff concurs with your assessment that the safety consequences of the proposed activity are bounded by the previously approved Defueling Canister Technical Evaluation Report and Early Defueling Safety Evaluation Report. However, we will require that procedures implemented for the use of the debris containers include as restrictions, the efforts to limit the amount of fuel entering the containers as discussed in reference (a).

We have determined that use of the proposed debris containers does not pose a risk to the health and safety of the public or occupational work force nor does it exceed the scope of activities and the associated environmental impacts considered in the staff's Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. It does not present the possibility of any accident not previously analyzed nor does it change the consequences of, or likelihood of any previously analyzed accident. Margins of safety are not reduced and the proposed activity requires no changes to the plant Technical Specifications. The activity does not constitute an unreviewed safety question.

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We therefore approve the use of the proposed debris containers contingent upon the submittal of the related procedures subject to our approval per Technical Specification 6.8.2.

Very truly yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

William D. Travers

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Director

TMI-2 Cleanup Project Directorate

cc: T. F. Demmitt
R. E. Rogan
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Service Distribution List
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