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April 29, 1986
NRC/TMI 86-043

Docket No. 50-320

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

Dear Mr. Standerfer:

Subject: Replacement of Loaded Fuel Canister Head Gaskets

Reference: Letter 4410-B6-L-0062, F. Standerfer to W. Travers, Safety
Evaluation for Replacement of Loaded Fuel Canister Head Gaskets,
dated April 11, 1986

The referenced letter forwarded, for NRC staff approval, your safety evaluation of the proposed fuel canister head gasket replacement. The replacement is necessary due to excessive leakage of the metallic gaskets presently installed on some of the canisters. Replacement will involve moving a loaded canister from the spent fuel pool (SFP) storage rack location to the dewatering station rack with the canister handling bridge, removal of the canister head, and transferring the head to a work table. At the work table, where the head can be rotated for access to the gaskets, the metallic gaskets will be removed, new synthetic gaskets will be installed, and the head will be inspected before reinstallation.

We have completed our review of your submittal and have determined that the heavy load handling and criticality control aspects of the proposed activity are bounded by the NRC approved safety evaluations for the defueling canisters and the SFP "A" fuel canister storage racks. Additionally, we have determined that appropriate engineered process controls and normal radiological controls practices will be sufficient to preclude any undue radiological hazards.

Your safety evaluation states that a temporary cover will be placed over the canister when the head is removed to minimize the spread of contamination from the open canisters to the SFP water. It also states that water processing will be used as required to maintain acceptable radioactivity concentrations in the pool. After discussions with members of your staff, we have determined that since the proposed activity presents the potential for contamination of the SFP "A" water with transuranic (TRU) material, additional precautions will

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be required before water processing after opening of loaded fuel canisters. In particular, you must ensure that any SFP "A" water processing, after opening of loaded canisters, is performed under the control of procedures with appropriate provisions to accurately assess the quantity of TRU material in the process stream, and to assure generation of a waste that can be properly disposed.

We conclude that the proposed activities do not present any undue risk to the health and safety of the public or the occupational work force nor do they involve an unreviewed safety question.

We therefore approve the loaded fuel canister head gasket replacement as described in the reference subject to the limitations discussed above and contingent upon the submittal of the related procedures subject to Technical Specification 6.8.2.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
William D. Travers

William D. Travers
Director
TRI-2 Cleanup Project Directorate

cc: T. F. Dermitt
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