Docket No. 50-320

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

Dear Mr. Standerfer:

Subject: Defueling Canister Catalytic Recombiners


The referenced letter informed the NRC staff that due to asymmetrical locations and manufacturing tolerances in the placement of the catalytic recombiners in the defueling canisters, a 50 percent canister void volume does not provide for exposure of 50 percent of the catalyst in some canister orientations. The safety evaluations related to canister design and canister preparation for shipment stated that 100 grams (or 50 percent) of the installed catalyst would be exposed to the gas space of the canister regardless of canister orientation.

We have reviewed the referenced letter and concur with your assessment that the minimum catalyst exposure of 25 percent, or 50 grams, that can occur in a canister dewatered to a 50 percent void volume, will still have an acceptable margin of safety in its gas recombination capacity. This reduced catalyst exposure is in conformance with the cask license, in that the license conditions require that a "sufficient" volume of catalyst be exposed.

The remaining aspects of canister dewatering and minimum void volume discussed in your letter are still under review by the staff. We will address these aspects in future correspondence.

Sincerely,

original signed by
John Thomas for:

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Director
THI-2 Cleanup Project Directorate
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