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April 20, 1990
4410-90-L-0029/0524P

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (TMI-2)
Operating License No. DPR-73
Docket No. 50-320
Transition to Facility Mode 3

Dear Sirs:

The final shipment of defueling canisters containing TMI-2 core debris has departed TMI-2 and arrived at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratories; no canisters containing core material remain onsite. Independent verification of this action may be performed at any time. Table 1.1 of the TMI-2 Technical Specifications states that Facility Mode 3 shall exist when the conditions for Facility Mode 2 are met and no canisters containing core material are stored on the TMI-2 site. GPU Nuclear letter 4410-90-L-0012, dated February 22, 1990, forwarded the final submittal of the Defueling Completion Report which demonstrated that TMI-2 has satisfied the Technical Specification requirements for transition to Facility Mode 2. Therefore, the final shipment of defueling canisters satisfies the remaining condition for transition to Facility Mode 3.

GPU Nuclear letter 4410-90-L-0018, dated March 7, 1990 provided the Technical Specification-required 60 day notice of transition to Mode 3 which was scheduled to occur on May 7, 1990. However, since all plant conditions are satisfied for transition to Modes 2 and 3, GPU Nuclear requests that the 60 day requirement for NRC notification of transition to Mode 3 be set aside and TMI-2 be allowed to transition directly from Mode 1 through Mode 2 to Mode 3.

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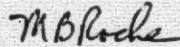
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If this is not feasible from an administrative standpoint, then transition to Mode 2, as scheduled, followed by transition to Mode 3 the following day would be an acceptable alternative.

Sincerely,



M. B. Roche
Director, TMI-2

EDS/mkk

cc: T. T. Martin - Deputy Regional Administrator, Region I
J. F. Stolz - Director, Plant Directorate I-4
L. H. Thonus - Project Manager, TMI Site
F. I. Young - Senior Resident Inspector, TMI