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Mr. Henry D. Hukill, Vice President GPU Nuclear Corporation P. O. Box 480 Hiddletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Dear Mr. Bukill:

In response to your letter of July 27, 1982, the Commission has issued the enclosed Exemption from certain annual emergency plan exercise requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.1.a, specifically the level of local government participation in the exercise for the Three Mile Island (TML) site for 1982.

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed in the Exemption. that: (1) because the exemption does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated, does not create the possibility of an accident of a type different from any evaluated previously and does not involve a significant reduction in a safety margin. the exemption does not involve a significant hazards consideration. (2) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (3) such activities will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

A copy of the Exemption is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for sublication.

> Sincerely, PORIGINAL SIGNED BY JOHN F. STOLZ"

> > John F. Stolz, Chief Operating Reactors Branch #4 Division of Licensing

Enclosure: Exemption

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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*See previous NRC 318 for concurrence.

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7590-01

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of GPU Nuclear Corporation, ET AL

Units Nos. 1 and 2

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station.

Dockets Nos. 50-289 and 50-320

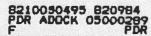
EXEMPTION

1.

GPU Nuclear Corporation (the licensee) and three co-owners are the holders of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-50 and DPR-73 which authorize the operation of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Units Nos. 1 and 2 (TMI-1 & 2). These licenses provide, among other things, that they are subject to all rules, regulations and Orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission). The facility comprises two pressurized water reactors at the licensee's site in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

11.

10 CFR \$50.54(q) of the Commission's regulations requires a licensee authorized to operate a nuclear power plant to follow and maintain in effect emergency plans which meet the standards of 10 CFR \$50.47(b) and the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. Section IV.F.1 of Appendix E requires each licensee annually to conduct an emergency preparedness exercise with full participation by the State and local county governments unless the State and all local county governments in the plume exposure pathway Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) for the licensee's facility have otherwise participated in a full-scale exercise during the annual period (with such participation occurring in conjunction with a full-scale exercise at another nuclear power plant). In this latter case, the



licensee is required to conduct an annual exercise with the participation of State and local governments consistent with the provisions of Section IV.F.3 of Appendix E for small scale exercises.

By letter dated July 27, 1982, GPU Nuclear requested an exemption from certain annual exercise requirements of Section IV.F.1.a of Appendix E. Specifically, GPU Nuclear's annual exercise conducted on August 11, 1982 did not include a level of participation of local governments within the plume exposure pathway EPZ for TMI entirely consistent with the requirements of Section IV.F.1.a for full-scale exercises. Rather, the level of participation by the five counties within the plume exposure pathway EPZ for TMI along with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was consistent with the provisions of Section IV.F.3 of Appendix E for small-scale exercises. Two of the five counties for TMI, York and Lancaster, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania had previously participated on a full-scale basis in the recent annual exercise for the Peach Bottom facility in June 1982. However, the other three counties for TMI, Dauphin, Lebanon and Cumberland, have not participated in a full-scale exercise in 1982 and will not have the oppor-. tunity to do so during the balance of the year.

We have reviewed the participation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the TMI counties in previous exercises within the last 15 months. These exercises were the full-scale exercises conducted at TMI in June 1981, involving the full participation of the Commonwealth and Dauphin, Cumberland, Lincaster and Lebanon Counties, the TMI emergency exercise conducted in September 1981 involving the Commonwealth and York County, the TMI emergency

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communications exercise in October 1981, involving the Commonwealth and Dauphin, Cumberland, Lancaster, Lebanon and York Counties, and the recent full-scale exercise for the Peach Bottom facility in June 1982 involving the full participation of the Commonwealth and York and Lancaster Counties. This review has shown that these several exercises conducted within the last 15 months have provided suitable tests for the adequacy of offsite emergency preparedness for THI, and have provided ample opportunity for training and familiarizing emergency response personnel, including those in Dauphin, Lebanon and Cumberland Counties, in their emergency response duties. In addition, the emergency preparedness exercise, conducted on August 11, 1982, involving the Commonwealth and the five counties for TMI served to further test the adequacy of communication links and the understanding of the participating agencies of their emergency response rules. From the scale and frequency of exercises conducted within the last 15 months involving the counties within the plume exposure pathway EPZ for TMI, we find that the less than full-scale participation of Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon Counties in the current annual exercise for TMI will not adversely affect the overall state of emergency preparedness at TMI. For the above reasons, we conclude that the licensee's request for exemption should be granted.

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III.

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Accordingly, the Commission has determined that an exemption in accordance with 10 CFR 50.12 is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest.

The requested exemption from the exercise requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.1.a involving Dauphin, Lebanon, and Cumberland counties' full-scale participation in the licensee's current annual exercise is hereby granted.

The Commission has determined that this exemption does not authorize a change in effluent types or total amounts nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that the exemption involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and, pursuant to 10 CFR §51.5(d)(4), that an environmental impact statement, or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with this action.

NFOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Division of Licensing Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 14th day of September 1982.