August 23, 1988

Docket No. 50-37C

Mr. F. R. Standerfer
Vice President/Director
Three Mile Island Unit 2
GPU Nuclear Corporation
Post Office Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Dear Mr. Standerfer:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT - EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR PART 55.59 "OPERATORS' LICENSES, REQUALIFICATION" (TAC 67035)

Enclosed is the Environmental Assessment which relates to your request dated December 20, 1987, for exemptions from certain requirements of 10 CFR 55.59 for Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2.

This assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

original signed by

Michael T. Masmik, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-4
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment
cc w/enclosure:
See next page

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY
Mr. F. R. Standerfer  
GPU Nuclear Corporation  

cc:  

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Three Mile Island Nuclear Station  
Unit No. 2

R. E. Rogan  
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S. Levin  
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A. W. Miller  
GPU Nuclear Corporation
The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59, Operators' Licenses, Requalification relative to Facility Operating License No. OPR-73, issued to GPU Nuclear Corporation (the licensee), for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 2 (TMI-2), located in Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. By Order for Modification of License, dated July 20, 1979, the licensee's authority to operate the facility was suspended and the licensee's authority was limited to maintenance of the facility in the present shutdown cooling mode (44 FR 45271). By further Order of the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, dated February 11, 1980, a new set of formal license requirements was imposed to reflect the post-accident condition of the facility and to assure the continued maintenance of the current safe, stable, long-term cooling condition of the facility (45 FR 11292). The license provides, among other things, that it is subject to all rules, regulations and Orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The actions being considered by the Commission are exemptions from requirements of 10 CFR 55.59 pertaining to the Licensed Operator Requalification Program. The licensee has requested, in a letter dated December 28, 1987, that the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(c)(2), subsections (iv) and (v) and 10 CFR 55.59(c)(3)(i), items (A) through (AA) be eliminated. Specifically, 10 CFR 55.59(c)(2), subsections (iv) and (v) require that the licensee's operators' requalification program include lectures covering plant protection systems and engineered safety systems, respectively. Items (A) through (AA) of 10 CFR 55.59(c)(3)(i) require that the operators' requalification program include, as part of on-the-job training, control manipulations for an identified list of conventional reactor evolutions.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

TMI-2 is currently in a post-accident, cold shutdown, long-term recovery mode, with sufficient decay heat removal assured by direct heat loss from the reactor coolant system (RCS) to the reactor building atmosphere. The present unconventional configuration of the TMI-2 plant does not allow the conventional evolutions normal to an operating facility. As such, the staff does not consider the evolutions listed in 10 CFR 55.59(c)(3)(i) items (A) through (AA) applicable for TMI-2. Since conventional events are not applicable for TMI-2, conventional plant protection systems and engineered safety systems are not required by TMI-2 and are in fact disabled.

Therefore, training lectures on conventional plant protection systems and engineered safety systems would be irrelevant to TMI-2. Similarly, conventional
manipulations, such as listed in 10 CFR 55.59(c)(3)(i) items (A) through (AA) would not be applicable to the present TMI-2 configuration. As such, exercises attempting these manipulations would not be relevant to the TMI-2 operating staff.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action:

The staff has evaluated the proposed exemptions and concludes that in light of the current and future condition of the facility described above, there are no significant radiological or nonradiological impacts to the environment as a result of this action. The exemptions remove the specific training requirements which are no longer applicable to the TMI-2 configuration.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for TMI-2, dated March 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request. No other agencies or persons were consulted.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption. Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action see the letter from GPH dated December 28, 1987 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of August 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

John F. Stolz, Director
Project Directorate 4-4
Division of Reactor Projects I/II