



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

*Docket
File*

January 5, 1993

Docket No. 50-289

Mr. T. Gary Broughton, Vice President
and Director - TMI-1
GPU Nuclear Corporation
Post Office Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Dear Mr. Broughton:

SUBJECT: THREE MILE ISLAND UNIT 1 - RELIEF FROM INSERVICE INSPECTION POST
REPAIR HYDROSTATIC TEST SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS (TAC NO. M84761)

By letter dated October 9, 1992, GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPUN) submitted a request for relief from the schedule requirements of the Inservice Inspection (ISI) program as it applies to hydrostatic testing of the Once Through Steam Generator (OTSG) secondary side. The request was made in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(5) on the basis that the testing specified in the ASME Code, Section XI has been determined to be impractical at Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1). Specifically, your letter requested that the subject testing be deferred to the 11R refueling outage scheduled for September 1995. GPUN's justification for deferring this test included an assessment that alternative nondestructive testing (visual leak testing at pressures lower than hydrostatic test pressure and volumetric/surface weld examinations) has been or will be performed on the welds of interest, that no safety or quality benefit would result from this test, and that there is a likelihood that the requirement for this test will be deleted by the ASME and the NRC in the near future.

The staff has reviewed your request for relief and the supporting justification. The cited regulation (10 CFR 50.55a(g)(5)) requires a determination by the licensee that a Code requirement is impractical for that facility and 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6) requires the Commission to evaluate such determinations. The justification provided by GPUN demonstrates the burden that would result from performing a hydrostatic test of the OTSG secondary system and associated piping and valves. The staff has concluded that GPUN's request for deferral of the test is justified in recognition of the proposed alternative testing and therefore agrees with the request. We have determined that the Section XI Code requirement for this test is impractical to perform at TMI-1 and we have granted schedular relief from that requirement. The NRC staff has determined that granting relief pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i) is authorized by law and will not endanger life, property, or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest giving due consideration to the burden upon GPUN that could result if the subject ASME Code requirement were imposed on the facility.

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Mr. T. Gary Broughton

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The staff's evaluation and conclusions are contained in the enclosed Safety Evaluation.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

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

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. T. Gary Broughton
GPU Nuclear Corporation

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station,
Unit No. 1

cc:

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