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May 21, 1985
5211-85-2100

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attn: J. F. Stolz, Chief
Operating Reactor Branch No. 4
Division of Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Stolz:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 1 (TMI-1)
Operating License No. DPR-50
Docket No. 50-289
Backup Incore Readout System

One of the conditions emanating from the Licensing Board decisions in the TMI-1 restart proceeding was that the licensee was to install a backup incore thermocouple display system prior to operation above five percent power (Reference 1).

Upon review of the Licensing Board decisions, the Appeal Board, in its decision on design issues, concluded that the backup incore thermocouple display system was "safety-grade except for environmental qualification." (Reference 2) This decision assumed seismic qualification of the backup incore thermocouple display system. However, by letter dated September 8, 1983, (Reference 3), GPUN indicated that, contrary to the Appeal Board assumption, the backup incore thermocouple display system was not currently seismically qualified, but would be upgraded to a fully safety-grade status, including seismic qualification, at the first refueling (Cycle 6 refueling outage).

Subsequently, GPUN advised that, based on analysis, it considered the system to be seismically qualified with the exception of the digital indicators (Reference 4).

By letter dated August 24, 1984, the NRC staff transmitted a Safety Evaluation concluding that the TMI-1 backup incore thermocouple display, as augmented by an alternate method of obtaining thermocouple readings, would remain viable following an SSE until the upgrading of the backup incore thermocouple display system to a safety-grade system at the first refueling outage.

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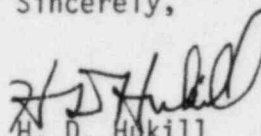
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May 21, 1985

The purpose of this letter is to document that (a) seismically qualified digital indication has been installed in the control room for the BIRO system, and (b) that GPUN has reviewed the preliminary environmental qualification test report for incore thermocouple cables and connectors prepared by our contractor which supports their qualification and we have provided our comments. The final EQ test report is scheduled for submittal to us during the week of May 20, 1985.

Sincerely,


H. D. Hukill
Director, TMI-1

SK:dls:1797f

References:

- (1) ASLB Partial Initial Decision, December 14, 1981
- (2) ALAB-729, May 26, 1983
- (3) Letter dated September 8, 1983, Thomas A. Baxter, (Counsel for Licensee, Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge) to Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary of the Commission
- (4) GPUN letter 5211-83-369, dated December 22, 1983

cc: R. Conte
J. Thoma