

November 7, 1996

Mr. James Knubel  
Vice President and Director, TMI  
GPU Nuclear Corporation  
Three Mile Island Nuclear Station  
Post Office Box 480  
Middletown, PA 17057-0191

SUBJECT: THREE MILE ISLAND INSERVICE TEST PROGRAM INSPECTION 96-08

Dear Mr. Knubel:

This letter transmits the results of an inspection performed between June 3-7 and September 26-27, 1996, by Mr. D. Dempsey of this office, and Mr. J. Colaccino of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1. The inspection was focused on issues important to public health and safety, specifically your implementation of an inservice test (IST) program for pumps and valves. The preliminary inspection findings were discussed with you and other members of the General Public Utilities (GPU) staff on June 7 and September 27, 1996.

IST program commitments associated with the transition to the 1989 Edition of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code were found to be implemented adequately. Test procedures were of high quality, with unambiguous acceptance criteria, and contained clear, detailed direction. However, several deficiencies with respect to program scope and test methods were identified that require correction. We understand that you have committed to add to your IST program the 28 ASME Class 2 and 3 relief valves and the four decay heat removal pump casing vent valves listed in this report, as well as to reconsider formalized treatment of this finding within the corrective action program. We consider the exclusion of the 32 valves in question, in numerous safety related systems, to have regulatory significance. We therefore, consider it important that your corrective action program be used to analyze causal factors, determine the extent of any similar problems, understand broad programmatic implications, and initiate appropriately scoped corrective actions to prevent recurrences. Please notify us promptly if your understanding of this commitment differs from ours.

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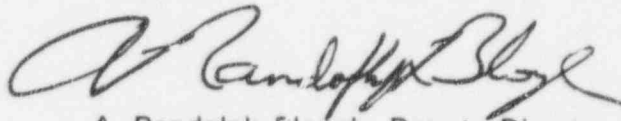
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Mr. James Knubel

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We appreciate your cooperation, and would be pleased to discuss any questions that you may have concerning our inspection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Randolph Elough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "A." being particularly prominent.

A. Randolph Elough, Deputy Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-289

Attachment: NRC Inspection Report No. 96-08

cc w/encl:

E. L. Blake, Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge (Legal Counsel for GPUN)  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

J. C. Fornicola, Director, Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

M. J. Ross, Director, Operations and Maintenance

TMI-Alert (TMIA)

J. S. Wetmore, Manager, TMI Regulatory Affairs

Mr. James Knubel

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