

AUG 27 1985

Docket/License No. 50-289/DPR-50

GPU Nuclear Corporation
ATTN: Mr. H. D. Hukill
Director, TMI-1
P.O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Gentlemen:

Subject: Inspection 50-289/85-20

The NRC's TMI-1 Restart Staff organization remained in effect throughout this inspection period pending a U.S. Court of Appeals stay of the Commission's Memorandum and Order CLI-85-09, dated May 29, 1985, authorizing restart. Until further notice, the TMI-1 Restart Staff, as described in NRC Region I Inspection Report No. 50-289/85-19, will continue its direct inspection and monitoring of your facility to assess your readiness for restart including the physical readiness of the facility for safe operation.

During the period from June 28 to August 2, 1985, members of the NRC TMI-1 Restart Staff conducted routine safety inspections of shutdown activities at your facility. The staff documented the results of this inspection in the enclosed inspection report. At the conclusion of the inspection Mr. R. Conte, of my staff, summarized the inspection findings for Mr. J. Colitz and other members of your staff. The findings were generally favorable with no observations of conditions adverse to nuclear safety or inconsistent with regulatory requirements.

The enclosed inspection report addresses your efforts in completing necessary modifications to upgrade your emergency feedwater (EFW) system to full safety grade status prior to the startup following the next refueling outage. We noted that you incorporated the safety design objectives from various restart hearing board decisions and staff safety evaluations, and that you were making reasonable progress in the implementation of these EFW modifications to meet your commitments. We encourage you to maintain the pace of your efforts, consistent with the safe operation of the facility. We plan to conduct future inspections of these modifications.

The enclosed inspection report and the attachment address operation of TMI-1 with up to 2,000 tubes plugged in both steam generators. The staff found that continued operation of both OTSGs was acceptable provided that no more than 2,000 tubes are removed from service or the number of tubes plugged in the A OTSG does not exceed three times the number plugged in the B OTSG. Operation beyond these limits would require further evaluation on your part and submittal to NRR in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59.

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This letter also refers to your letter dated August 30, 1984, and to your letters dated December 5, 1984 and April 12, 1985 regarding violations identified in NRC Region I Inspection Reports 50-289/84-16 and 50-289/84-24, respectively. Our inspectors verified the steps you have taken to correct the violations and concluded that they are acceptable.

In addition, we acknowledge your letter of February 13, 1985, that identified an error in NRC Inspection Report 50-289/84-37 regarding upgrade of the EFW recirculation valve controls. We have addressed this matter in the enclosed report. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. We encourage you to continue such feedback in the future.

Based on our continuing inspection, we have identified no matters that would affect the safe restart of TMI-1, except for the sporadic behavior and potential unreliability of one of two source range channels of nuclear instrumentation. If not corrected, this will require further evaluation as to the potential adverse impact on startup if authorization were to be received.

Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

original signed by

William F. Kane, Director
TMI-1 Restart Staff
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: NRC Region I Inspection Report Number 50-289/85-20 (w/attachment)

cc w/encl:

R. J. Toole, Operations and Maintenance Director, TMI-1
C. W. Smyth, TMI-1 Licensing Manager
R. J. McGoey, Manager, PWR Licensing
G. F. Trowbridge, Esquire
TMI-1 Hearing Service List
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector (2 copies)
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

bcc w/encl:

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