

November 19, 1985

DMB 016

Docket No. 50-289

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Mr. Henry D. Hukill, Vice President
and Director - TMJ-1
GPU Nuclear Corporation
P. O. Box 480
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

Dear Mr. Hukill:

SUBJECT: EFFECTS OF MOVING TMJ UNIT 2 FUEL ON THE UNIT 1 SIDE
OF THE FUEL HANDLING BUILDING

By letter from Mr. Denton to Mr. Hukill dated October 2, 1985, TMJ-1 was permitted to resume operation subject to conditions imposed in the restart proceeding. One of these conditions concerns the movement of Unit 2 fuel in the fuel handling building (FHB) and reads as follows:

During any Unit 2 fuel movements in the fuel handling building, GPU Nuclear Corporation shall suspend work in the Unit 1 area of that building, unless GPU Nuclear Corporation has submitted to the NRC for its review specific written procedures for the planned movements of Unit 2 fuel and an evaluation of the potential impacts of those fuel movements on personnel working in the Unit 1 area of the building and the NRC has agreed that the potential impacts of the planned Unit 2 fuel movements on personnel working in the Unit 1 area of the building do not require that work in the Unit 1 area of the building be suspended. LBP-82-27, 15 NRC 747, 755 (1982).

By letter dated November 12, 1985 from Dr. Travers, Acting Director of the TMJ Program Office, to Mr. Standerfer, Vice President/Director TMJ-2, the staff reviewed and approved the planned movement of fuel from the Unit 2 reactor to the fuel handling building via special canisters. This SER implied but did not specifically state that this planned fuel movement does not require that work in the Unit 1 area of the fuel handling building be suspended. The purpose of this letter is to confirm that for the present evolution of moving Unit 2 fuel, suspension of work on the TMJ-1 side of the FHB is not required.

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This conclusion is based on (1) NRC staff review and approval of specific TMI-2 fuel movement procedures (required per TMI-2 Technical Specification 6.8.2), and (2) NRC staff evaluations of early TMI-2 defueling activities, including potential impacts, proposed by GPUN. Our evaluations indicate that the likelihood of a detrimental impact resulting from TMI-2 fuel movements in the FHB is small. Even if a worse case accident (i.e., canister drop and rupture) were assumed to occur, the impacts would not adversely affect personnel in any area of the FHB. Releases of radioactive material postulated from such an accident would either be contained and shielded by water in the flooded fuel pool or be too small (i.e., Krypton-85 gas) to pose a significant hazard to personnel in the FHB.

It is our intent that future safety evaluations covering the movement of Unit 2 fuel in the FHB explicitly review the effect on the Unit 1 side of the FHB and thereby address this condition of operation for TMI-1.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
JOHN F. STOLZ

John F. Stolz, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

*11/19/85
I called R. Conti, the senior resident at TMI-1,
I told him generally about this letter and he
was glad to know it was being issued. JOT*

ORB#4:DL
JHoma/dn
11/19/85

ORB#4:DL
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AZE
for

Mr. Henry D. Hukill
GPU Nuclear Corporation

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station
Unit No. 1

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Atomic Safety & Licensing Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Atomic Safety & Licensing Appeal
Board Panel (8)
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

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