

NOV 29 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 50-289/85-25

During the period from October 18-25, 1985, members of the NRC TMI-1 Restart Staff conducted routine and special safety inspections of operational activities at your facility. The results of these inspections are documented in the enclosed inspection report. At the conclusion of the inspection Mr. R. Conte, of my staff, summarized the inspection findings for you and other members of your staff. On balance, the findings were favorable. Of particular note was the continued high level of performance of the operations department in the use of their skills to minimize challenges to safety systems. However, the results in one area are of concern and warrant our continued examination; and, in another area, there was an apparent violation of regulatory requirements.

Of particular concern to us during this period were the circumstances that developed during and after a routine surveillance test of the pressurizer power operated relief valve (PORV) during the midshift on October 25, 1985. The issues of concern include (1) a routine test that could not be completed because a portion of the test was not conducted correctly, (2) the unnecessary creation of both a deficiency sheet and an exception sheet as a result of that test and, subsequently, throwing these sheets away and (3) the confusing documentation used to substantiate the shift supervisor's determination of operability of the PORV. As a result of our witnessing your retest, it was clear to us within several hours that the PORV was in fact operable throughout the period except, of course, while it was being tested. It is also clear to us that there was prompt involvement by your senior management in the retest. Our early involvement in this process, however, led to your discovery of the exception and deficiency sheets that had been thrown away. We are aware that the essential information on these sheets also was available on other records that you had retained.

Although we have no immediate safety concern at this point, we are concerned with the actions that took place. Accordingly, we request that you provide us with a report containing your analysis of this event. In particular, your response should identify (1) any discrepancies in our understanding of the event as described in the inspection report, (2) the problems, their root causes and lessons learned, and (3) corrective actions completed and/or planned. This matter will remain unresolved pending our review of your report.

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Also during the period, our inspectors identified one instance of your failing to meet regulatory requirements as described in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Appendix A). The apparent violation resulted from workers posting uncontrolled circuit drawings and procedural notes on the inside of instrument cabinets in the control room. In addition to following the instructions on the attached Notice of Violation, please describe those measures in place or planned to assure that similar problems do not exist in other instrument cabinets outside the control room area.

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

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A, Notice of Violation
2. NRC Region I Inspection Report Number 50-289/85-25

cc w/encls:

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/encls:

Region I Docket Room (concurrence copy)

Management Assistant, RI (w/o encl)

H. Thompson, NRR

W. Travers, NRR

J. Taylor, IE

J. Partlow, IE

J. Thoma, PM, NRR

T. Murley, RI

J. Allan, RI

K. Abraham, RI

R. Starostecki, RI

T. Martin, RI

S. Ebneter, RI

H. Kister, RI

L. Bettenhausen, RI

N. Blumberg, RI

P. Wen, RI

R. Conte, RI

D. Haverkamp, RI

W. Baunack, RI

R. Urban, RI

F. Young, RI

R. Walker, RII

H. Dance, RII

D. Falconer, RII

E. Johnson, RIV

D. Hunnicutt, RIV

J. Cummins, RIV

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