

FEB 12 1986

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 50-289/85-30

During the period December 13, 1985-January 10, 1986, members of the NRC TMI-1 Restart Staff conducted routine and special safety inspections of operational and radiological 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. Overall, we continue to note acceptable performance. However, as a result of our inspection, we identified an apparent violation of NRC requirements (see Appendix A) with respect to the proper surveillance of a fire door in the diesel generator building. You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions in Appendix A.

In our review of the reactor trips on December 1, 1985 and January 4, 1986, we concluded that the response of the plant safety systems and personnel was as expected. That review, however, did highlight to us once again that the design philosophy employed in the secondary side of nuclear power plants for protection of the turbine-generator and related equipment can adversely affect the number of challenges to safety systems and operators. In the TMI-1 design for example, there are several areas in which a one-out-of-one logic is employed to obtain a trip of the turbine-generator which in turn causes a reactor trip for most operating conditions. Designs that employ one-out-of-one logic are more vulnerable to equipment malfunctions that may call for a trip when none is required. Our concern, of course, is with unnecessary challenges to safety systems and operators. Although we recognize that the costs and benefits of secondary plant modifications must be examined carefully before actions are taken, we believe this should be a major element of any reactor trip reduction program. Concurrently, more attention to the preventive maintenance aspects of such susceptible features can also result in fewer failures and consequently fewer reactor trips.

This letter also acknowledges our receipt of your response dated December 19, 1985, regarding your failure to adequately control drawings in control room electrical cabinets (Appendix A to NRC letter dated November 29, 1985). We note that corrective actions will be completed by February 28, 1986. Accordingly, we will review your corrective actions in an inspection subsequent to that date.

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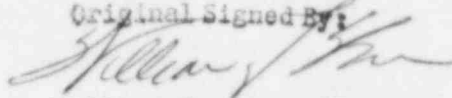
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Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

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 50-289/85-30

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  
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TMI-1 Hearing Service List  
Public Document Room (PDR)  
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Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)  
NRC Resident Inspector (2 copies)  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

bcc w/encls:

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