October 21, 2013

Paul A. Hardin, President
Three Mile Island Nuclear Station
Route 441 South
Post Office Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057-0480

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION UNIT 2 – POST-SHUTDOWN DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES REPORT, LICENSE: DPR-73, DOCKET: 50-320

Dear Mr. Hardin:

On June 28, 2013, GPU Nuclear, Inc. (GPU) submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) the Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR) for Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2, (TMI-2) (ADAMS Accession No. ML1390A366) pursuant to 10 CFR 50.82(a)(4). The NRC has completed its review of the PSDAR in accordance with Regulatory Guide 1.185, Standard Format and Content for Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report, and concludes the following:

1. Section III of the PSDAR, Description of Decommissioning Activities, provides the applicable information identified in Section C(1) of Regulatory Guide 1.185. In addition, the staff finds that the PSDAR adequately describes the activities that will occur from the time the facility transitions from its current NRC approved Post-Defueling Monitored Storage (PDMS) state through final decommissioning of the facility.

2. Section IV of the PSDAR, Schedule of Decommissioning Activities, provides the estimated dates for initiation and completion of major decommissioning activities, as described in Section C(2) of Regulatory Guide 1.185. The PSDAR informs NRC that TMI-2 decommissioning activities will be conducted concurrently with Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1. The schedule for TMI-2 decommissioning activities is adequate to achieve TMI-2 license termination within 60 years of permanent cessation of operations as required by 10 CFR 50.82(a)(3).

3. Section V of the PSDAR, Estimated Costs of Decommissioning Activities, provides an estimate of the expected decommissioning costs for TMI-2. However, the cost estimate does not appear to be based on the latest annual update to the decommissioning cost estimate as indicated in Section C(3) of Regulatory Guide 1.185. The PSDAR provides an estimated total decommissioning cost of $844,885,000 (based on 2008 dollars). On March 29, 2013, GPU Nuclear submitted the Decommissioning Funding Status Report for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (ADAMS No. ML13088A143). This report states that the decommissioning costs are estimated to be $943,927,246, in 2012 dollars.
This cost estimate is based upon the site specific decommissioning cost study, Decommissioning Cost Analysis for Three Mile Island Unit 2, dated January 2009. The NRC staff is currently reviewing the March 29, 2013, Decommissioning Funding Status Report for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2, for adequacy. Therefore, Section V of the PSDAR should be updated to reflect this most recent decommissioning cost estimate.

4. Section VI of the PSDAR, Environmental Impacts of Decommissioning Activities, provides a discussion of the potential environmental impacts associated with TMI-2 decommissioning activities as directed by Section C(4) of Regulatory Guide 1.185. The PSDAR includes a comparison of potential environmental impacts from planned decommissioning activities with impacts from similar activities provided in NUREG-0683, Supplement 3, "Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Related to Decontamination and Disposal of Radioactive Wastes Resulting from March 28, 1979 Accident Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2," (PEIS) and NUREG-0586, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Facilities," dated August 1988 and Supplement 1, dated November 2002 (GEIS).

The PEIS evaluated the environmental impacts associated with the activities necessary for decontamination, defueling, and waste disposition at the TMI-2 facility following the 1979 accident. The available alternatives evaluated in the PEIS ranged from no activity to full cleanup of the facility. The GEIS, and supplement, evaluated the environmental impacts of decommissioning activities at nuclear power reactors necessary to reduce residual radioactivity to levels that allow for termination of NRC licenses.

Since the decommissioning activities planned for the TMI-2 facility are similar to the activities conducted to bring the TMI-2 facility to its current PDMS state following the accident, and similar to routine nuclear power facility decommissioning activities, the staff agrees with GPU Nuclear’s conclusion that the potential environmental impacts associated with TMI-2 decommissioning activities are bounded by the previously issued PEIS and GEIS and its supplement.

With the exception of the outdated decommissioning cost estimate discussed in Conclusion 3 above, the staff finds that the PSDAR is acceptable. Within 30 days of the date of this letter, GPU Nuclear should provide an updated decommissioning cost estimate which reflects the most recent annual update.

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.82(a)(7), GPU Nuclear must notify the NRC in writing before performing any significant decommissioning activity inconsistent with, or making a significant schedule change from, the planned decommissioning activities or schedules described in the PSDAR, including changes that significantly increase the decommissioning costs.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's ‘Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders,” a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.
If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact John Buckley, at (301) 415-6607, or by e-mail at John.Buckley@nrc.gov

Sincerely,

John T. Buckley, Senior Project Manager
Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery
Licensing Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 50-320
License No.: DPR-73

cc: TMI-2 Distribution List
Three Mile Island - Unit 2 Service List

cc:
Mr. James H. Lash
Chief Nuclear Officer, GPU Nuclear Inc.
FirstEnergy Corporation
76 South Main Street
Akron, OH 44308

Mr. Danny L. Pace
President, GPU Nuclear Inc.
FirstEnergy Corporation
Mail Stop: A-WAC-A3
341 White Pond Drive
Akron, OH 44320

Mr. Greg Halnon
Director, Regulatory Affairs
FirstEnergy Corporation
Mail Stop: A-WAC-A3
341 White Pond Drive
Akron, OH 44320

Mr. Eric Epstein
EFMR Monitoring Group
4100 Hillsdale Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Mr. Kevin L. Ostrowski
Vice President GPU Nuclear Fleet Oversight
Mail Stop: A-WAC-A3
341 White Pond Drive
Akron, OH

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III Office
ATTN: Mr. B. Hoffman
EIS Coordinator
3ES30
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 17103

Mr. Walter W. Cohen, Consumer Advocate
Department of Justice
Strawberry Square, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17127

Chairperson
Dauphin County Board of Commissioners
Dauphin County Courthouse
Front and Market Streets
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Director
Bureau of Radiation Protection
Department of Environmental Protection
13th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Bldg. P.O. Box 8469
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8469

Mr. Rick W. Libra
Site Vice President, TMI-1
Exelon Generation Company LLC
P.O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

Mr. Ad Crable
Lancaster New Era
8 West King Street
Lancaster, PA 17601

Mr. Jerome Boyd
PDMS Supervisor
Exelon Generation Company LLC
P.O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

Mr. Michael J. Casey
GPU Nuclear Responsible Engineer TMI-2
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Mail Stop: A-WAC-A3
341 White Pond Drive
Akron, OH 44320

Dr. Judith H. Johnsrud
Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power
433 Orlando Avenue
State College, PA 16803-3477
Mr. Scott Fuhrman  
Manager PDMS  
Exelon Generation Company LLC  
P.O. Box 480  
Middletown, PA 17057

Mr. Dave Atherholt  
Site Regulatory Assurance Manager, TMI-1  
Exelon Generation Company LLC  
P.O. Box 480  
Middletown, PA 17057

Senior Resident Inspector (TMI-1)  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P.O. Box 311  
Middletown, PA 17057

44320 The Patriot  
812 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Mr. David W. Jenkins, Esq.  
First Energy Legal Department  
76 South Main St.  
Akron, OH 44308