

November 17, 2009

Dr. Mario V. Bonaca, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
REPORT ON THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS OF
THE OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION DRYWELL SHELL

Dear Dr. Bonaca:

During the 566th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards held October 8-10, 2009, the Committee completed its review of the three-dimensional finite element analysis (3-D FEA) of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (Oyster Creek) drywell shell, as well as its review of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) associated assessment. The Committee's materials, metallurgy, and reactor fuels subcommittee also reviewed this matter during its meeting on September 23, 2009. The Committee's review concluded that the analysis provides a modern, realistic, 3-D FEA that better quantifies the available safety margin for Oyster Creek's drywell shell, and confirms that the drywell shell complies with the current licensing basis for design basis accidents with margin. The Committee also concluded that the analysis was performed using good engineering practices and judgment and used conservatively biased realistic assumptions.

The NRC staff appreciates the Committee's thorough review of both the 3-D FEA and the associated staff assessment. Additionally, the Committee's letter of October 16, 2009, very clearly articulated both the complexities of this issue and the margins to safety that are maintained, which was of benefit to all stakeholders involved. The NRC staff recognizes the Committee's commitment to safety and appreciates its continued support of the license renewal process.

Sincerely,

/RA Bruce S. Mallett for/

R. W. Borhardt
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Klein
Commissioner Svinicki
SECY

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Sincerely,
/RA Bruce S. Mallett for/
R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

Docket No. 50-219

cc: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Klein
Commissioner Svinicki
SECY

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Letter to Mario V. Bonaca from R. W. Borchardt dated November 17, 2009

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REPORT ON THE 3-DIMENSIONAL FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS OF THE
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