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May 12, 2000
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS)
Docket No. 50-219
Facility License No. DPR-16
Change in Peak Clad Temperature

Reference: Letter to J.L. Wermiel (U.S.N.R.C.) from W.H. Hetzel (General Electric),
"Summary of Changes and Error in ECCS Evaluation Models," June 30,
1999

The purpose of this letter is to report, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(ii), the impact of changes and errors in the methodology used by General Electric (GE) to demonstrate compliance with the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) requirements of 10 CFR 50.46 for Oyster Creek. A peak clad temperature (PCT) change greater than 50°F requires notification to the NRC within 30 days.

There have been two errors identified impacting Oyster Creek in the past year. The above reference reported an error in the CORCL code used for fuel rod heatup calculations during spray cooling conditions. The error was reported to result in a 30-40°F decrease in PCT. A second error was evaluated and reported to GPU Nuclear by Global Nuclear Fuel (GNF) on April 13, 2000. This error results from neglecting leakage flows due to slip joints and vent holes in ECCS piping between the reactor vessel wall and core shroud in determining ECCS flow rate into the core region of the reactor vessel.

The GNF error evaluation was performed in two steps. The first step reanalyzed previous ECCS results with the current version of the CORCL code and the second step reanalyzed ECCS results with a 100 gallon per minute (gpm) reduction in each core spray system using the current version of CORCL. The corrected version of the CORCL code resulted in a 55-70°F reduction in PCT while the 100 gpm reduction in ECCS flow increased PCT between 15-30°F. The net change results in a decrease in PCT and current MAPLHGR limits for Oyster Creek remain bounding.

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Since the actual error from CORCL is larger than originally reported and greater than 50°F, it is considered reportable within 30 days. In addition, the largest possible change due to both errors is a PCT reduction of 55°F, which is also reportable.

If there are any questions or additional information is needed, please contact Mr. Paul Czaya of our Nuclear Safety and Licensing Department at 609-971-4139.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sander Levin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr. Sander Levin
Acting Director
Oyster Creek

c: Administrator, USNRC Region I
USNRC Senior Project Manager - Oyster Creek
USNRC Senior Resident Inspector – Oyster Creek