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June 21, 2000  
1940-00-20152

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Washington DC 20555

Dear Sir:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station  
Docket No. 50-219  
Request for a One Cycle Extension  
NRC Approval of the Core Support Wedge Modification

During the last refueling outage at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, a core support wedge modification was installed for the purpose of addressing the potentially degraded condition of the core plate rim holddown bolts. These bolts affect the core plate lateral alignment, as defined in the BWRVIP-25 report. By letter dated November 6, 1998, the staff issued a Safety Evaluation (TAC No. MA3409) to allow Oyster Creek one cycle of operation with the wedges in place. This approval was granted in order to allow the staff time to complete its review of two BWRVIP reports.

The staff has to date approved BWRVIP-25, but has not finalized its work on BWRVIP-50. Resultingly, an additional one-cycle approval is required. The bases for this request were contained in our original submittal dated August 25, 1998, as supplemented by the attachment to this letter.

If any additional information or assistance is required, please contact Mr. John Rogers of my staff at 609.971.4893.

Very truly yours,

Sander Levin, Acting Site Director  
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

SL/JJR

cc: Administrator, Region I  
NRC Project Manager  
Senior Resident Inspector

A001

## ATTACHMENT 1

### SUBJECT:

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Safety Evaluation (SER) dated November 6, 1998 - Core Support Plate Wedge Modification for Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (TAC No. MA3409)(Ref. 2).

### PURPOSE:

Request for approval of one additional cycle of operation.

### BACKGROUND:

During the 17R refueling outage, a core plate wedge modification was implemented at Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station for the purpose of addressing the potentially degraded condition of the core plate rim holddown bolts which affect the core plate lateral alignment, as defined in the BWRVIP-25 report (Ref. 3).

The modification was reviewed and approved by the NRC via letter dated November 6, 1998. The NRC acceptance was for one cycle of operation pending their final review and approval of BWRVIP-25 and BWRVIP-50 (Ref. 4) reports.

### DISCUSSION:

The subject modification was designed and implemented consistent with BWRVIP-25 and BWRVIP-50 reports dated December 27, 1996 and May 14, 1998, respectively. At the time of core plate wedge installation, the aforementioned BWRVIP reports were under review by the NRC. While BWRVIP-25 has received final approval by NRC via a Safety Evaluation Report (SE), the BWRVIP-50 review has not been completed. It is anticipated that the final SER will not be issued until July 31, 2000, at the earliest. Therefore, GPUN requests that the NRC revise the previously issued SER (Ref. 1) to allow one additional cycle of operation with the core plate wedge modification as installed in Refueling Outage 17R.

### REFERENCES:

1. Request for Approval of the "Core Support Wedge 17R Outage Modification", dated August 25, 1998.
2. Safety Evaluation by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Regarding "Core Support Plate Wedge Modification for Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station" 17R Outage, Docket No. 50-219 (TAC No. MA 3409).
3. BWR Vessel and Internals Project: "BWR Core Plate Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines (BWRVIP-25)."
4. BWR Vessel and Internals Project: "Top Guide/Core Plate Repair Design Criteria (BWRVIP-50)."