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10 CFR 50.55a

2130-00-20275

November 14, 2000

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

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Facility License No. DPR-16
Docket No. 50-219
Notification of Inservice Inspection Interval Extension

The third inservice inspection (ISI) interval for Oyster Creek is scheduled to end on March 14, 2002. AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (AmerGen) is extending the current inspection interval by seven months in accordance with American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code), Section XI, 1986 Edition, sub-article IWA-2430(d).

The attachment to this letter provides additional information regarding the ISI interval extension. If you should have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Paul F. Czaya of Oyster Creek Licensing at 609-971-4139.

Very truly yours,



Ron J. DeGregorio
Vice President
Oyster Creek

Attachment

c: Administrator, NRC Region I
NRC Senior Project Manager for Oyster Creek
NRC Senior Resident Inspector

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Attachment

Until the sale of Oyster Creek to AmerGen, refueling outage 17R (September/October 1998) was planned to be the last refueling outage for ISI examinations and, therefore, ISI scope was reduced. With operation now expected to continue until expiration of the license, the ISI scope for the 18R refueling outage (October/November 2000) approximately doubled. AmerGen will defer some inspections to refueling outage 19R (October 2002) in order to adhere to schedule constraints associated with the 18R outage and keep occupational exposures ALARA.

Commercial operation of Oyster Creek began on December 8, 1969. The original inservice inspection program was defined in Technical Specification Table 4.3.1, "Examination Schedule of Reactor Coolant System." The program was enhanced with Technical Specification Change Request No. 28 (Revisions 1, 2, 3 & 4) and amended by License Amendment No. 34, which incorporated additional inspection requirements. The requirements of Table 4.3.1 did not reference any codes or standards as obligatory requirements. Change Request No. 28, however, did represent the guidelines used for inservice inspection at Oyster Creek during the last 5 years of the first ten-year inspection interval. This program paralleled, to the maximum extent practical, the requirements set forth in the 1971 edition of Section XI through the Summer 1973 Addenda.

As required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(ii), the inservice inspection program for the second ten-year interval was updated. The effective edition of the Code with regard to the second ten-year interval was the 1974 edition through the summer 1975 addenda. The start date for the second ten-year interval was December 8, 1979.

Oyster Creek underwent a major refueling and maintenance outage during 1983 and 1984 that lasted twenty-two months. In a letter dated May 20, 1988, GPU Nuclear (the licensee at the time) requested a change to the ending date for the second ten-year inservice inspection interval. Subsection IWA-2400, "Inspection Intervals", of Section XI of the Code, 1974 Edition, through the summer 1975 Addenda states that "for plants that are out of service continuously for one year or more, an inspection interval may be extended for an equivalent period." The NRC staff evaluated the request and in a letter dated March 6, 1989, the NRC staff concluded that the second ten-year inservice inspection interval was extended twenty-two months to end on October 14, 1991.

During the final refueling outage (13R) of the second ten-year interval, certain pressure tests were not completed. For this reason, GPU Nuclear extended the interval five months, which ended the second interval on March 14, 1992.

As required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(ii), ISI program requirements for Oyster Creek were reviewed for the third ten-year interval and submitted in Reference 1 to comply with the requirements of ASME Section XI, 1986 edition and to commence on March 15, 1992. Figure 1-1 summarizes ISI guidelines and schedule for the first, second and third ten-year intervals. The NRC in Reference 2 approved the program for the third ten-year interval.

Attachment

In accordance with sub-article IWA-2430(d) of the Code, AmerGen is extending the third ten-year interval seven months. The interval will end on October 14, 2002 and will encompass the 19R refueling outage. This extension will not allow any further extension to future ten-year intervals, as the twelve-month allowance is cumulative over all intervals unless a future interval is shortened commensurately or Code provisions are modified.

Figure 1-1**Oyster Creek ISI Intervals**

Ten-Year Interval	Inservice Inspection Guidelines	Schedule
First (1-5)	Oyster Creek Technical Specifications	1969 – 1974
(6-10)	Section XI 1971 Edition through Summer 1973 Addendum	1975 – 1979
Second	Section XI 1974 Edition through Summer 1975 Addendum	1979 – 1992
Third	Section XI 1986 Edition	1992 – 2002

- References: 1) Correspondence No. C321-92-2119 dated April 16, 1992, "Inservice Inspection Program Update for the Third Ten Year Interval"
- 2) NRC Letter dated October 25, 1994, "Evaluation of the Third 10-Year Interval Inspection Program Plan and Associated Requests for Relief for Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station"