

OC TS 3.2.B.2.(b)

December 21, 2004
2130-04-20332

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555 - 0001

Oyster Creek Generating Station
Facility Operating License No. DPR-16
NRC Docket No. 50-219

Subject: OCGS – Special Report 04-01, Reactor Start-up with the Rod Worth Minimizer Inoperable

Enclosed is Special Report 04-01 that is submitted in accordance with Oyster Creek Technical Specification 3.2.B.2.(b) due to commencing a reactor startup on November 21, 2004 with the Rod Worth Minimizer (RWM) declared Inoperable. This was the first reactor startup performed during calendar year 2004 without the RWM.

If any further information or assistance is needed, please contact David Fawcett at 609-971-4284.

Sincerely,

Mikhail J. Massaro for C.N. Swenson

C. N. Swenson
Vice President, Oyster Creek Generating Station

CNS/DIF

Enclosures: Special Report 04-01, Reactor Startup with the Rod Worth Minimizer Inoperable

cc: S. J. Collins, Administrator, USNRC Region I
P. S. Tam, USNRC Senior Project Manager, Oyster Creek
R. J. Summers, USNRC Senior Resident Inspector, Oyster Creek
File No. 04005

IE22

Special Report 04-01

Reactor Startup with the Rod Worth Minimizer Inoperable November 21, 2004

Description of Event

The Rod Worth Minimizer (RWM) was declared inoperable on November 18, 2004, prior to 1R20 plant start up because position data for control rods 30-19 and 34-23 were not being registered by the computer when selected by the reactor operator (RO).

Technical Specification 3.2.B.2.b. was entered, which states; "one start-up during each calendar year may be performed without the RWM provided that the second licensed operator verifies that the licensed operator at the reactor console is following the rod program and provided that a reactor engineer from the Core Engineering Group also verifies that the rod program is being followed." The RWM had demonstrated complete functionality during both prior plant start-ups in 2004 including the last start-up on the September 21, 2004 from forced outage 1F07.

Reason for the Failure

An initial investigation revealed a loose screw lying on the interface card for control rod 30-19. The screw was removed and operation of the interface card was restored; however, the performance was slow. Subsequently contacts on the rod select relay for the interface card were burnished and normal operation was restored.

Investigations also revealed high resistance across the contacts on the rod select relay for the interface card of control rod 34-23. These contacts were burnished and normal operation was restored for this control rod.

Actions Planned and Scheduled to Repair the RWM

The loose screw has been removed and the contacts for the rod select relays associated with the interface cards have been burnished. CAP O2004-3977 and work order C2009175 documents the results of the maintenance and further evaluation of the failure cause. A review of the corrective actions database indicates there is no past history of the RWM failing to recognize rod selections at Oyster Creek. An apparent cause evaluation will be completed by January 21, 2005 to assess extent of condition and to identify additional corrective actions.