

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 08/24/06 EDO CONTROL: G20060714
DOC DT: 08/09/06
FINAL REPLY:

Rep. Jim Saxton

TO:

Former Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 06-0401

Chairman Klein

DESC:

ROUTING:

Comments Regarding the Draft Environmental Impact
Statement (DEIS) Issued as Part of the Operating
License Renewal Process for Oyster Creek
Generating Facility

Reyes
Virgilio
Kane
Silber
Dean
Burns
Cry, OGC
Collins, RI
Zimmerman, NSIR
Sheron, RES

DATE: 08/15/06

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Dyer

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Coordinate with OGC.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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ACTION OFFICE:

EDO

OGC

AUTHOR:

REP Jim Saxton

AFFILIATION:

CONG

ADDRESSEE:

CHRM Dale Klein

SUBJECT:

Comment regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) issued as part of the operating license renewal process for the Oyster Creek nuc gen facility

ACTION:

Signature of Chairman

DISTRIBUTION:

RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE:

08/09/2006

ACKNOWLEDGED

No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

EDO....coordinate with OGC

NOTES:

Commission Correspondence

FILE LOCATION:

ADAMS

DATE DUE:

08/28/2006

DATE SIGNED:

EDO --G20060714

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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

August 9, 2006

Dr. Nils J. Diaz, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Dr. Diaz:

I send this letter as my official comment regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) issued as part of the operating license renewal process for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Facility in Forked River, New Jersey.

The recent DEIS, issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, states there are no environmental impacts that would preclude renewing the operating license extension of Oyster Creek. According to the report, the Commission has determined that the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal would not prevent energy planning decision makers from granting the operating extension.

As I understand it, the NRC conducted a thorough analysis to reach this determination. However, I am concerned the environmental impacts of a potential atmospheric release of radiation have not been adequately addressed in this report. In 2005, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) released a report evaluating the potential risks of boiling water reactor (BWR) plants with above ground spent fuel pools. The report, entitled Safety and Security of Commercial Spent Fuel Storage, found the potential vulnerabilities of BWR pools are plant-design specific, and recommended that,

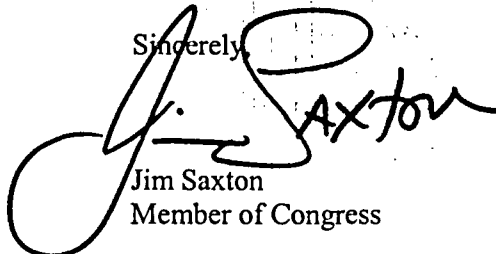
"The Nuclear Regulatory Commission should undertake additional best-estimate analyses to more fully understand the vulnerabilities and consequences of loss-of-pool coolant events that could lead to a zirconium cladding fire."

Although the DEIS contains a specific section regarding Severe Accident Mitigation, I inquire as to whether or not the NAS suggested analysis was incorporated into the statement? We must not underestimate the catastrophic impacts to our environment in the event a cooling pool is compromised.

I have long supported the involvement of an independent and unbiased third party, such as the NAS, in the license renewal process of Oyster Creek. Additionally, I support the inclusion of their suggested analysis in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), and urge the NRC to make every effort to do so.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Saxton
Member of Congress

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