

Elizabeth Keighley

From: Rodneshia Green , NRR
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2008 11:38 AM
To: Richard Conte; Karl Farrar; Brian Holian; Edward Williamson; Mary Baty; John Richmond; Jeffrey Kulp; Diane Screnci; Neil Sheehan
Subject: Board Notification Oyster Creek .doc
Attachments: Board Notification Oyster Creek .doc

Draft for review.

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Board Notification 2008-__

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Klein
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
Commissioner Svinicki
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
All Parties

FROM: Brian E. Holian Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF INFORMATION IN THE MATTER OF OYSTER
CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION

An appeal of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's decision in LBP-07-17 is pending before the Commission. Therefore, in accordance with the Commission's policy on notification to the Commission, the Staff is providing the following information.

During the late 1980's, the sand bed region near the bottom of the drywell shell on the outside was discovered to be corroded at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant. In 1992, the sand was removed from the sand bed region, and a three layer epoxy coating was applied to the sand bed region. As part of the commitments for License Renewal, a 100 percent visual inspection of the coating in the sand bed region was conducted in 2006. The next 100 percent inspection was planned for the current refueling outage, and then future inspections are planned of every other refueling outage (i.e. every four years).

The staff from AmerGen' Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant staff is currently conducting a refueling outage and NRC Region I staff is on site performing a license renewal commitment inspection. On October 31, 2008, the lead inspector for the license renewal commitment inspection received information that a blister was observed in the epoxy coating in the sand bed region of the drywell in one bay. The blister is located in bay 11 at the 11 foot three inch elevation very close to the ultrasonic test ("UT") location 11A. This was the only blister observed during ASME Code VT-2 visual inspection of the coating in all ten bays. On November 2, 2008, the inspector entered the affected bay and observed a blister. The blister is about one quarter of an inch in diameter with an approximately 6 inch brown stain, dry to the touch, trailing down from the blister. Three additional bumps were observed similar in size to the blister, were observed in the same area but without any evidence of a brown stain.

AmerGen briefed the state of New Jersey official, Region I, and NRC Headquarters staff on November 3, 2008, on planned repairs, apparent cause, and extent of conditions. During that call, the staff from AmerGen outlined the plans for the root cause analysis and repair plan for this area. Details of the plan were still being prepared at that time, but the plans are anticipated to include:

- Opportunities for the NRC to observe the excavation and examination of the defect;
- Chemical analysis to determine the composition of the surface stain, specifically for the presence of iron;
- Removal of the coating over the blister and the bumps to assist in the examination;
- Carefully removing the blister to assist in the root cause analysis (e.g., is there on-going corrosion of the drywell shell);
- Conduct a UT scan from the inside of the drywell at the location of the blister;
- Repair of the coating in the disturbed area.

The repair plan was initiated on the evening of November 5, 2008. The blister was removed in tact and saved for further analysis. The stain was removed and retained for chemical analysis. The bumps were removed with great difficulty because they were tightly adhered.

The staff will wait for the licensee to complete its analysis before making a decision on future actions (including an assessment of the appropriate inspection frequency.) Although this is considered to have very little safety significance at this time, a Board Notification was considered prudent due to interest in this drywall.

Docket No. 50-219

cc: See next page

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Docket No. 50-219

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