



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 31, 2019

Mr. Jeffrey Dostal
Site Decommissioning Director
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
741 Route 9 South
Forked River, NJ 08731

SUBJECT: ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT HARVESTING FROM OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR
GENERATING STATION

Mr. Dostal:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff in the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) is conducting a research program to study the hazards of high energy arcing faults (HEAFs) in nuclear power plants. Recent testing confirms that the area damaged around the equipment, referred to as the “zone of influence,” may be larger than postulated in the current methodology used for HEAF analyses. The current methodology supports nuclear power plants performing fire probabilistic risk assessments for applications such as the National Fire Protection Association Standard 805 to meet fire protection regulations (e.g., Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* [10 CFR] Part 50.48, “Fire Protection”). The NRC staff is reaching out to nuclear power plants that are in the process of decommissioning to ask if the facility has specific safety and non-safety related equipment that could be made available for NRC retrieval for this important NRC research program.¹ The NRC staff is currently planning the testing campaigns for 2020 and would like to ideally obtain the equipment between now and December 2019. The following types of electrical distribution equipment that the NRC staff needs for its study are:

- 4160 Volt GE Magne-Blast Type AM Switchgear; including breakers²
- 460 Volt GE AK Series Switchgear; including breakers²

The purpose of this letter is to request as many units (defined as a vertical section of switchgear) as Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (Oyster Creek) can provide, not to exceed 10 medium-voltage vertical sections and 8 low-voltage vertical sections.

The NRC staff requests a cost estimate for removal and preparation of the equipment for shipment to the BSI Electrical Contractors company located in Montgomeryville, PA. The NRC

¹ The NRC is leading an international collaboration of 10 member countries that will research the hazards of HEAF events and their impact on the safe operation of nuclear power plants. The testing requires subjecting electrical distribution equipment to high energy arcing faults and taking measurements of the effluent that will be used to assess the hazard and inform fire probabilistic risk assessment model refinement.

² Cost estimate for removal and preparation to be estimated with and without breakers.

staff can arrange for the transportation and storage of this equipment at any time.

It would be helpful if the RES staff could conduct a site visit after July 1, 2019, to identify specific equipment from the population that Oyster Creek is willing to provide for this important study. The site visit would also be beneficial to identify any non-power equipment that the NRC staff may have interest in for fire safety research studies.

Please respond to me regarding whether Oyster Creek can support this study by providing specific electric equipment when it becomes available. If you have any questions about this request, please contact me at (301) 415-6822 or Amy.Snyder@nrc.gov.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this email will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/ A. HUFFERT FOR

Amy M. Snyder, Senior Project Manager
Reactor Decommissioning Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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