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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
101 MARIETTA ST., N.W., SUITE 3100
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

MAY 29 1979

In Reply Refer To:
RII:JPO
50-416, 50-417

Mississippi Power and Light Company
Attn: N. L. Stampley
Vice President of Production
P. O. Box 1640
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Gentlemen:

This Information Notice is provided as an early notification of a possibly significant matter. It is expected that recipients will review the information for possible applicability to their facilities. No specific action or response is requested at this time. If further NRC evaluations so indicate, an IE Circular or Bulletin will be issued to recommend or request specific licensee actions. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Sincerely,

for James P. O'Reilly
Director

Enclosure:
Information Notice No. 79-13
w/Enclosures

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cc w/encl:
C. K. McCoy
Plant Manager
Post Office Box 756
Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

May 29, 1979

IE Information Notice No. 79-13

INDICATION OF LOW WATER LEVEL IN THE OYSTER CREEK REACTOR

Summary

A loss of feedwater transient at the Oyster Creek facility on May 2, 1979, resulted in a significant reduction in water inventory within the reactor core shroud area as measured by one set of water level instruments (triple low level), while the remaining level instruments, sensing from the reactor annulus area indicated water levels above any protective feature setpoint (Figure 1). The water level within the core shroud area was reduced below the "triple low level" setpoint of 4-feet, 8-inches above the top of the fuel.

Subsequent analysis by the licensee has determined that the minimum collapsed water level (solid, without steam voids) over the top of the fuel was 1 to 1-1/2 feet.

Coolant sample analyses and offgas release rates indicate no fuel damage occurred.

General

Oyster Creek is a non-jet pump BWR with licensed power of 1930 MWt. The plant was first made critical May 3, 1969.

Status Before Transient

Operating at near full power with the main parameters at levels as follows:

1895 MWt power level
79" Yarway (13'4" over top of fuel) reactor water level
1020 psig reactor pressure
7.1x106 #/hr feedlow
14.8x104 gpm recirculation flow rate (4 pumps)
12 paid core p

Equipment Out of Service (OOS

"D" recirc pump OOS due to se
"B" startup transformer OOS f