UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

MAY 29 1979

Docket No. 50-155
Docket No. 50-255

Consumers Power Company
ATTN: Mr. R. B. DeWitt
Manager of Nuclear
Plant Operations
212 West Michigan Avenue
Jackson, MI 49201

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 this office.

Sincerely,

James G. Keppler
James G. Keppler
Director

Enclosure:
IE Information Notice
No. 79-13

cc w/encl:
Mr. C. J. Hartman,
Plant Superintendent
Mr. J. G. Lewis, Plant
Superintendent
Central Files
Director, NRR/DPM
Director, NRR/DOR
PDR
Local PDR
NSIC
TIC
Ronald Callen, Michigan Public
Service Commission
Anthony Roisman, Esq.,
Attorney
Myron M. Cherry, Chicago

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION III

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 do not indicate any 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
7.1×10^6 #/hr feedflow
14.8×10^4 gpm recirculation flow rate (4 pumps)
12 psid core Δp

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Equipment Out of Service (OOS)

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

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

Entire document previously entered into system under:

ANO 7906060164

No. of pages: 11