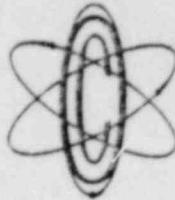


OYSTER CREEK



NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

JCP&L / GPU

Jersey Central Power & Light
Company is a Member of the
General Public Utilities System

(609) 693-1951 P.O. BOX 388 • FORKED RIVER • NEW JERSEY • 08731

June 1, 1981

Mr. Boyce H. Grier, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Mr. Grier:

SUBJECT: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket No. 50-219
Licensee Event Report
Reportable Occurrence No. 50-219/81-20/3L

This letter forwards three copies of a Licensee Event Report to report Reportable Occurrence No. 50-219/81-20/3L in compliance with paragraph 6.9.2.b(1) of the Technical Specifications.

Very truly yours,

Ivan R. Finfrock, Jr.
Ivan R. Finfrock, Jr.
Vice President - JCP&L
Director - Oyster Creek

IRF:dh
Enclosures

cc: Director (40 copies)
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Director (3)
Office of Management Information
and Program Control
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

NRC Resident Inspector (1)
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Forked River, N. J.



8106050509

5

OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Licensee Event Report
Reportable Occurrence No. 50-219/81-20/3L

Report Date

June 1, 1981

Occurrence Date

May 1, 1981

Identification of Occurrence

Violation of the Technical Specifications, section 3.8(B) when the volume of water in the "B" Isolation Condenser was less than the Technical Specification limit of 22,730 gallons. This condition could not have existed for greater than one year based on the previous calibration.

This event is considered to be a reportable occurrence as defined in the Technical Specifications, paragraph 6.9.2.b(1).

Conditions Prior to Occurrence

The plant was in the cold shutdown condition at the time the level discrepancy was identified.

Description of Occurrence

On Friday, May 1, 1981, during the annual calibration of Isolation Condenser shell side level instruments, IG-06B was found to be reading high by approximately .55 ft. The actual shell side level was found to be 6.75 ft which is less than the Technical Specification required level of >7.2 ft. This error, or false indication was due to a low reference column water level. This condition could not have existed for greater than one year based on the previous calibration.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence

The cause of the occurrence is attributed to a low reference column water level.

Analysis of Occurrence

The purpose of the isolation condenser is to depressurize the reactor and to remove reactor decay heat in the event that the main condenser is unavailable as a heat sink. Since the shell side of the isolation condenser operates at atmospheric pressure, it can accomplish this purpose when the reactor temperature is sufficiently above 212°F to provide for the heat transfer corresponding to reactor decay heat.

Each condenser contains a minimum water volume of 22,730 gallons thus providing 11,060 gallons above the condensing tubes. One condenser with a minimum water volume of 22,730 gallons or >7.2 ft. can accommodate the reactor decay heat for 45 minutes after scram from 1950 MWT before make up is required.

The level difference was less than Technical Specification limit by 1250 gallons which resulted in a reduction of operating time, before make-up, above the top of tube bundle of less than 5 minutes.

Effectively the reduction in time available left the operator with sufficient time to make up and maintain adequate water volume.

The occurrence had no effect on public health and safety.

Corrective Action

The reference column was backfilled with water to its normal operating level i.e. spill-over to isolation condenser shell volume.

Until a scheduled check of the reference legs is incorporated into the Preventive Maintenance Program the calibration frequency for this instrument will be changed from annually to quarterly to ensure that the reference legs remain full.

Failure Data

Not applicable.