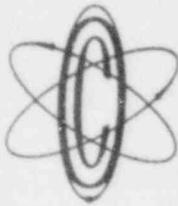


OYSTER CREEK



NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

JCP&L GPU

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

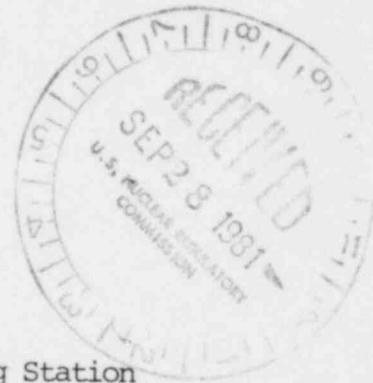
(609) 693-6000 P.O. BOX 388 • FORKED RIVER • NEW JERSEY • 08731

September 11, 1981

Mr. Ronald Haynes, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Mr. Haynes:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket No. 50-219
Licensee Event Report
Reportable Occurrence No. 50-219/81-42/01T



This letter forwards three copies of a Licensee Event Report to report Reportable Occurrence No. 50-219/81-42/01T in compliance with paragraph 6.9.2.b.1 of the Technical Specifications.

It is recognized that failures of the stack gas sample pumps have occurred on several occasions. Although this results in a total loss of stack effluent monitoring, the loss of indication has been minimized by prompt operator action, after discovery of the failures, to place the backup sample pump in service.

Currently, a new, much improved stack gas sample system is being installed at the Oyster Creek Station. This system will include isotopic identification as well as the recording and alarm functions of the existing system. Furthermore, this system will include new bellows action type sample pumps which have demonstrated improved operation, over the existing pumps, for the last year or so. It is expected that this new system will be operable in early 1982.

In view of the current problems associated with the sample pumps in use, consideration was given to installing an automatic starting capability on the backup pump. It has been decided that since this introduces the possibility of a common mode failure (i.e., water in the piping), it would not be advantageous to install this capability since a common mode failure would result in loss of monitoring capability for an extended period.

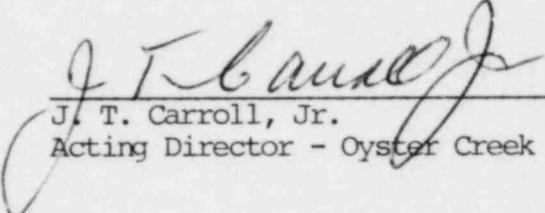
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As an alternative, it has been decided to request a change to Technical Specification 3.6.A.3 in order to permit operation for a short period of time (similar to that allowed for filter changes) with the monitoring system out of service in order to accommodate system failures which can be corrected within the specified time period.

It is expected that the actions taken above in conjunction with those actions delineated in the LER will prevent a recurrence of this situation in the future.

Very truly yours,



J. T. Carroll, Jr.
Acting Director - Oyster Creek

JTC:lse

enclosure

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

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

NRC Resident Inspector
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Forked River, NJ 08731

OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Licensee Event Report
Reportable Occurrence No. 50-219/81-42/01T

Report Date

September 11, 1981

Occurrence Date

August 28, 1981

Identification of Occurrence

The Stack Gas was not continuously monitored as required by Technical Specification 3.6.A.3 due to a trip of the 'B' Stack Gas Sample Pump.

This event is considered to be a reportable occurrence as defined in the Technical Specifications, paragraph 6.9.2.A(2).

Conditions Prior to Occurrence

The plant was in refuel mode with reactor temperature below 212^oF and vented.

Description of Occurrence

On Friday, August 28, 1981, at approximately 0720 hours a chemistry technician observed the 'B' Stack gas pump was not running. The Stack Gas System low flow alarm had not annunciated in the Control Room to provide an indication of the situation. An operator was dispatched to investigate the problem and at approximately 0740, the 'A' Stack Gas Pump was placed in service.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence

The 'B' Stack Gas Sample Pump tripped on thermal overload when the pump's carbon vanes became frozen. The pump overheated and vaporized the oil that was present in the pump. The sticky vaporized oil coated the pump vanes and caused it to bind. Malfunction of the automatic lubrication system apparently caused the failure.

The low flow alarm did not annunciate in the Control Room because of an electronic component failure on the low flow switch alarm card.

Analysis of Occurrence

The maximum time that the Stack Gas Monitoring System could have been out of service was approximately six hours. The pump was last observed to be in service at approximately 0100 hours on August 27 during a Radwaste Equipment Operator's tour. At 0720 the following morning, the 'B' sample pump was discovered to be tripped.

A review of Stack Gas Radiation Monitor Recorder showed the levels in 'A' channel (100 cps) and 'B' channel (70 cps) to be constant before and after the event. In a further effort to determine if excessive stack gas releases might have occurred during the event, a review of the Reactor Building ventilation exhaust radiation monitor recorder showed that the levels in both channels were relatively constant with no spiking.

The Augmented Off-Gas System, the Mechanical Vacuum Pump and the Steam Packing Exhauster were secured during the event, and, therefore, could not provide additional radiological influents to the stack. Based on these considerations the safety significance of this event is considered minimal.

Corrective Action

The 'B' sample pump was cleaned, rebuilt, and satisfactorily tested operable. The faulty alarm card was replaced and the alarm circuit was also proven to be operable. A new Radioactive Gaseous Effluent Monitoring System is scheduled to be installed in early 1982. The system will consist of a monitor that will be used to perform, on a continuous basis, an on line isotopic analysis of radioactive effluents from the stack in addition to the existing recording and alarm functions. In order to increase the system reliability prior to startup of the new Radioactive Gaseous Effluent Monitoring System, the Stack Gas Sample Pumps will be replaced with a new type which is expected to be more reliable. In addition, the Radwaste Operator's tour sheet will be revised to identify, specifically, the routine checks to be performed by the operator.