OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Nonroutine Environmental Operating Report No. 50-219 81-4-2

Report Date

December 22, 1981

Occurrence Date

November 24, 1981

Identification of Occurrence

Exceeding a limiting condition as defined in the Environmental Technical Specifications, paragraph 2.1.4.3, when an insufficient number of dilution pumps were in operation as specified in paragraph 2.1.4.2. Less than two dilution pumps were operating for greater than 15 minutes, and ambient water temperature was less than 60°F.

Conditions Prior to Occurrence

Steady State Power

Dilution Pump Flow 5.20 E5 GPM

Circulating Water Pump Flow 4.60 E5 GPM

Prior to the occurrence, the ambient water temperature in the intake canal was 43.8°F. The condenser discharge water temperature was 63.7°F and the U.S. Route 9 Discharge Bridge temperature was 50.9°F.

Description of Occurrence

At 1127 hours on November 24, dilution pump 1-2 tripped off leaving only dilution pump 1-1 in operation. At 1205 hours, dilution pump 1-3 was put into service.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence

The cause of the trip could not be determined at the time of the occurrence. Historically, incidents of this nature have been attributed to high lubricating oil temperatures and low seal water pressure. It is possible that one of these factors or a combination of these factors could have caused the dilution pump to fail.

Analysis of Occurrence

The continuous operation of the dilution pumps is required to maintain water temperatures within the specified limiting conditions. The objective of operating the dilution pumps in the prescribed manner is to minimize the occurrence of adverse biological effects in Oyster Creek and contiguous water. Since the operation of an insufficient number of dilution pumps was of limited duration, there were no harmful marine biological effects observed.

Corrective Action

Immediate corrective action involved starting dilution pump 1-3.

Long term action involves a total dilution pump improvement program, as per a submittal to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on July 1, 1981, designed to improve their reliability and operability, is in progress. This includes upgrading of the dilution pump seal water and lubricating oil cooling water systems, pipe line strainers, pipe and heat tracing and overhaul of dilution pumps.