OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Nonroutine Environmental Operating Report 50-219 81-7-1

Report Date

December 22, 1981

Occurrence Date

December 7, 1981

Identification of Occurrence

Exceeding a limiting condition as defined in the Environmental Technical Specifications, paragraph 2.1.1, when the temperature difference between circulating water intake and the discharge exceeded the maximum of 23°F for a period of one hour.

This event is considered to be a Nonroutine Environmental Operating Report as defined in the Technical Specifications, Appendix "B", Paragraph 5.6.2.

Conditions Prior to Occurrence

Steady State Power

Dilution Pump Flow 7.80 E5 GPM

Circulating Water Pump Flow 4.60 E5 GPM

Dilution pump 1-1 is out of service for maintenance.

Prior to the occurrence, the ambient water temperature in the intake canal was 36.1°F. The condenser discharge water temperature was 56.5°F, and the U.S. Route 9 Discharge Bridge temperature was 43.7°F.

Description of Occurrence

As a result of the excessive grass clogging the intakes, the volume of water drawn in was reduced. This also decreased the amount of water discharged, but the amount of heat remained the same as in normal flow conditions. During backwashing of the condenser tubes, the power level was not reduced; as a result the 23°F temperature difference was exceeded.

At 1245 hours, the intake temperature was 37.3°F and the discharge temperature was determined to be 61.9°F. The temperature difference was 24.6°F, thus exceeding the permit limit of 23°F with four circulating pumps in operation.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence

The cause of the temperature excursion was due to excessive grass clogging the intake, reducing the flow of both the intake and discharge. The amount of heat being discharged was the same as in normal operation, but due to the reduced discharged water flow, the temperature difference was exceeded.

Analysis of Occurrence

The purpose of the requirement to maintain the prescribed temperature difference between the intake and discharge is to minimize the occurrence of adverse biological effects in Oyster Creek and contiguous water. Since the temperature excursion was of limited duration, there were no harmful aquatic biological effects observed.

Corrective Action

Operations took steps to correct the situation by initiating load reduction until the station was in compliance with the limiting condition.