



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 16, 1994

The Honorable Bill Bradley
United States Senator
1 Greentree Centre
Suite 303
Marlton, NJ 08053

Dear Senator Bradley:

I am responding to your letter of October 21, 1994, in which you forwarded correspondence from Ms. Helen Richmond concerning inspection of the reactor internals and emergency preparedness plans at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station.

Ms. Richmond requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) require that (1) the GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPUN) perform a thorough inspection of all safety-related reactor parts at the Oyster Creek plant and (2) the inspection results be filed for public review. She also expressed concerns regarding the Oyster Creek emergency evacuation plan.

The nuclear industry and the NRC staff are aware of the potential for cracking of the internal components within the reactor pressure vessel. Nuclear industry licensees, including GPUN, are required by regulation to implement inservice inspection programs. These inspection programs include a thorough evaluation of the condition of significant reactor plant components and structures. GPUN is also required by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code) to submit the results of these inspections to the NRC within 90 days of completion. The NRC staff performs routine reviews of licensee-implemented inservice inspection programs to determine compliance with applicable industry codes and regulations. These reviews are documented in NRC inspection reports. These NRC inspection reports, as well as certain licensee reports of inservice inspection results, are available to the public at the Ocean County Library, Reference Department, 101 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ 08753.

The Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWROG) has also addressed the issue of cracking in the internal components of the reactor pressure vessel by recommending that BWR licensees perform inspections of various components. The inspections of reactor pressure vessel components recommended by the BWROG include examinations of core spray spargers, feedwater nozzles, core shrouds, top guides, access hole covers, control rod drive return line nozzles, and in-core instrumentation. The BWROG has also formed the Boiling Water Reactor Vessels & Internals Project, chaired by five industry vice presidents, to develop a proactive program to address and mitigate cracking in reactor

9412220041 941216
PDR ADOCK 05000219
P PDR

210025

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

DF01/0

pressure vessel internal components. NRC staff correspondence with the BWROG, staff evaluations of submittals, summaries of meetings with the BWROG, and staff assessments of plant-specific submittals in regard to these subjects are also available to the public for review at the specific plant's local public document rooms.

GPUN has indicated that it inspected the following safety-related components during its current refueling outage, which started in September 1994: core spray sparger and annular piping, steam dryer and separator assembly, core shroud head bolts, core support plate holddown bolts, guide rod and steam dryer support brackets, feedwater spargers, top guide assembly, four intermediate power range monitors, one low power range monitor, and core shroud. Not all of these components are required by the ASME Code to be inspected. GPUN submitted results of the core shroud inspection and core spray sparger inspection to the NRC in two separate letters dated November 3, 1994. GPUN will also submit a summary of the results of inspections of internal components covered by the ASME Code within 90 days after the refueling outage is completed. These documents will also be available at the Ocean County Library. However, records of inspections of internal components not covered by Section XI of the ASME Code are kept at the site and are available for NRC review.

The inspection of the Oyster Creek core shroud showed that 1 of the 10 circumferential welds (the H4 weld) had indications of substantial cracking. To ensure shroud integrity under all postulated accidents, GPUN elected to install a modification that gives the shroud additional structural strength. NRC staff reviewed this modification and issued a Safety Evaluation on November 25, 1994, which found it acceptable. The Safety Evaluation is also available at the Ocean County Library.

On the basis of its review of various plant-specific and industry programs implemented by GPUN, the staff has determined that GPUN has taken appropriate actions to address the reliability of the Oyster Creek reactor vessel and its internal components.

Ms. Richmond also raised a concern that the road structure in Ocean County would make mass evacuation virtually impossible. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the lead Federal agency for evaluating offsite radiological emergency response plans for areas surrounding nuclear power plants. FEMA evaluates the capability of the State of New Jersey and Ocean County to take prompt actions, including evacuation, to protect the public health and safety in the 10-mile emergency planning zone (EPZ) around Oyster Creek in the event of a radiological emergency at the plant. FEMA's evaluation includes a review of the State and county plans and procedures for evacuating the public and how the plans and procedures take into account any impediments to evacuation (e.g., local demographics, road network). FEMA also observes and evaluates an exercise of those plans and procedures every 2 years to determine the capability of the State and county to implement them. On the basis of its formal approval of the State and county radiological emergency

response plans and its evaluation of the last Oyster Creek exercise, conducted on October 19, 1993, FEMA concluded that those plans can be implemented and are adequate to provide reasonable assurance that actions can be taken to protect the health and safety of the public in the event of a radiological emergency at the plant.

I trust that this information addresses Ms. Richmond's concerns. If Ms. Richmond has any specific questions regarding the evacuation procedures for the population within Oyster Creek's 10-mile EPZ, may we suggest she contact Sheriff William Polhemus, Director, Ocean County Office of Emergency Management, at (908) 341-3451, or Major James W. Momm, Section Supervisor, Emergency Management Section, New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, at (609) 538-6050. For further information on offsite emergency preparedness for Oyster Creek, she may also contact Mr. Stanley McIntosh, Chairman, Regional Assistance Committee, FEMA Region II, at (212) 225-7204.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

DISTRIBUTION:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Docket File 50-219 (w/incoming) | PUBLIC (w/incoming) |
| EDO #10608 | JTaylor |
| JMilhoan | HThompson |
| JBlaha | WRussell/FMiraglia |
| RZimmerman | PDI-4 GT (w/incoming) |
| SVarga | AThadani |
| JZwolinski | DCrutchfield |
| PMcKee | KBohrer |
| OGC | OPA |
| OCA | SECY #CRC-94-1125 |
| NOlson | NRR Mail Room (EDO #10608 w/incoming) |
| LDodley | Deputy Director Secretary |
| ADromerick w/incoming | MGriggs w/incoming |
| SNorris | JRogge, RGI |

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\GRIGGS\BRADLEY.HR * See previous concurrence

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|-------|----------|---|----------------|---|----------|---|------------|---|
| OFFICE | LA:PDI-4 | * | PM:PDI-4 | * | PM:PDI-4 | * | D:PDI-4 | * | BC:TERB | * |
| NAME | SNorris | | MGriggs | | ADromerick:bf | | PMcKee | | CMiller | |
| DATE | 11/29/94 | 12/14 | 11/29/94 | | 11/29/94 | | 11/30/94 | | 11/30/94 | |
| OFFICE | BC:EMCB | * | TECH ED | * | BC:RGI-EB | * | D:DRPE | * | ADRP | * |
| NAME | JStrosnider | | MMejac | | JDurr (E-Mail) | | SVarga | | RZimmerman | |
| DATE | 11/30/94 | | 11/25/94 | | 11/25/94 | | 12/01/94 | | 12/02/94 | |
| OFFICE | D:NRR | * | EDO | | OCA | | | | | |
| NAME | WRussell | | JTaylor | | | | | | | |
| DATE | 12/05/94 | | 12/14/94 | | 12/16/94 | | 12/ /94 | | 12/ /94 | |