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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket No. 50-219
Generic Letter 88-14

The purpose of this letter is to inform the NRC of the status of actions identified in GPU Nuclear's letter to the NRC dated February 21, 1989. As stated in that previous correspondence, GPU Nuclear has concluded that the Oyster Creek Instrument Air System design is in accordance with its intended function, and that air-operated components will function as expected in accordance with all design basis events including loss of air.

GPU Nuclear completed functional operability testing of air operated valves. This testing consisted of ensuring valves were positioned appropriately following a simulated loss of air condition. For valves with accumulators, this was assessed by stroking the 40 safety-related valves using accumulators only. For the safety-related valves with spring return actuators, the air was vented from the actuator resulting in the spring repositioning the valve. These functional operability tests were successfully completed during the 13R outage.

GPU Nuclear also performed an evaluation of applicable components and piping/tubing utilizing the Seismic Qualification Utilities Group (SQUG) program. The conclusions of the seismic evaluation report implied that the piping or tubing for ten secondary containment isolation valves may have failed due to the loadings imposed by a SSE. Had the air piping or tubing failed as a result of the seismic loads, the operability of these valves could have been challenged. As a result of this review a modification was installed during 13R to provide flexible hoses at these locations, effectively alleviating this concern.

Currently, a program to ensure operability of safety-related air operated valves is under development. This program will be implemented through appropriate surveillance and preventative maintenance activities utilizing the test results identified during the functional testing previously described.

Should you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Mr. Thomas Blount, Oyster Creek Licensing Engineer at 609-971-4007.

Very truly yours,

John J. Barton
Vice President and Director
Oyster Creek

JJB/TB:jc
cc: Administrator, Region 1
Senior NRC Resident Inspector
Oyster Creek NRC Project Manager