GPU Nuclear

GPU Nuclear Corporation
Post Office Box 388
Route 9 South
Forked River, New Jersey 08731-0388
609 971-4000
Writer's Direct Dial Number:

C321-92-2066
March 6, 1992

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

Gentlemen:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Operating License No. DPR-16
Docket No. 50-219
Response to Request for Additional Information Made by the NRC Staff - SEP Topic III-7B Related to Biological Shield Wall

In our telephone conversation with the NRC Staff (Messrs. A. Dromerick and H. Ashar) on February 7, 1992, we were requested to document the results of our visual inspection of the biological shield wall. The Staff stated that the information is useful to complete their safety evaluation report for the subject SEP topic.

As stated in our letters of October 3, 1991 and July 17, 1991, portions of the biological shield wall at Oyster Creek are exposed to temperatures of around 200°F during normal plant operation. As we further stated, these temperatures have been determined to have an insignificant effect on concrete strength or modulus of elasticity. However, to ensure that no significant structural degradation has occurred, visual observations of portions of the biological shield wall were performed during the last outage (13R).

As we communicated to your staff previously, the Oyster Creek biological shield wall concrete is covered on both sides by steel plates. These plates prevent inspections of the concrete surface. However, since the plates are mechanically attached to the concrete, significant concrete degradation would be expected to cause degradation of the plates.

During the observation of the shield wall plates, four (4) small cracks were identified. Two (2) of the cracks were at re-entrant corners around penetrations and the other two (2) were in seam welds. It appears that all

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four (4) have existed for several years and none appears to be propagating. No significant structural degradation was observed. To ensure that the cracks are not propagating, accessible cracks will be reinspected during the upcoming outage (14R).

Very truly yours,

J. J. Barton
Vice President and Director,
Oyster Creek

JJB/YN/plp

cc: Administrator, Region 1
NRC Resident Inspector
Oyster Creek NRC Project Manager