

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I

Report No. 50-219/92-01

Docket No. 50-219

License No. DPR-16

Licensee: GPU Nuclear Corporation  
P. O. Box 388  
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Facility Name: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Inspection At: Forked River, New Jersey

Inspection Conducted: January 13 to 16, 1992

Inspector: *P. O'Connell* 1-23-92  
P. O'Connell, Radiation Specialist date

Approved by: *W. Pasciak* 1-24-92  
W. Pasciak, Chief, Facilities date  
Radiation Protection Section, DRSS

Areas Inspected: The inspection was a routine, unannounced inspection of the radwaste management and transportation program onsite. Areas inspected included: the status of previously identified items, organization, audits, training of radwaste personnel, radwaste facility tours, review of shipping records and scaling factors.

Results: Within the scope of this inspection no violations were identified.

## DETAILS

### 1.0 Personnel Contacted

#### 1.1 Licensee Personnel

- R. Brown, Manager, Radwaste Operations
- \* G. Burel, Manager, Licensing
- \* B. DeMerchant, Licensing Engineer
- \* S. Levin, Director, Operations and Maintenance
- C. Pollard, Manager, Radiological Controls Field Operations
- \* P. Thompson, Site Audit Manager
- \* M. Slobodien, Director, Radiological Controls
- \* A. Wacha, Radwaste Shipping Manager

#### 1.2 NRC Personnel

- M. Banerjee, Resident Inspector
- J. Nakoski, Resident Inspector
- D. Vito, Senior Resident Inspector

\* Denotes attendance at the exit meeting on January 16, 1992.

### 2.0 Purpose

The inspection was a routine, unannounced inspection of the radwaste management and transportation program onsite. Areas inspected included: the status of previously identified items, organization, audits, training of radwaste personnel, radwaste facility tours, review of shipping records and scaling factors.

### 3.0 Status of Previously Identified Items

- 3.1 (Updated) Noncompliance Item 91-20-03. This item involved a June 24, 1991 shipment of radioactive material which was made to an offsite vendor. The shipment was made without identifying on the shipping papers a hazardous substance, asbestos, which was contained in the shipment. The inspector reviewed the progress that the licensee had completed in implementing their corrective actions as specified in their response letter C321-91-2279 dated October 11, 1991. Completed corrective actions included correcting the applicable shipping papers and holding a critique for the incident.

The licensee had not yet completed revising applicable procedures to address handling contaminated asbestos and requiring the use of specifically colored bags to denote contaminated asbestos. This item will be reviewed during a future inspection.

#### 4.0 Organization

The inspector reviewed the licensee's organization structure as it pertained to the radioactive waste (radwaste) management and transportation program. There had been no significant organizational changes in the licensee's radwaste organization since the last radwaste and transportation inspection. The radwaste and transportation program, under the direction of a Manager-Radwaste Operations, was split into two functional areas, Radwaste Operations and Radwaste Shipping. A Senior Engineer, overseeing 18 Radwaste Operators (RWOs), was responsible for the Radwaste Operations department. A Radwaste Shipping Manager, overseeing 3 Group Supervisor Radwaste Shipping (GRWSS) personnel and four contractors, was responsible for the Radwaste Shipping department.

The Health Physics support of the radwaste and transportation program consisted mainly of providing radiological surveys of shipments of radioactive material. Quality Assurance (QA) support consists of conducting an annual audit and periodic surveillances of the radwaste and transportation program.

Turnover in the radwaste and transportation area has been minimal. The licensee has been able to maintain a stable workforce of well qualified individuals in the radwaste and transportation area.

#### 5.0 Audits

The inspector reviewed the most recent audit of the radwaste program, S-OC-90-09. The audit covered the time period of August 1989 through August 1990. The scope of the audit and the detailed discussion in the audit report indicated that a thorough review of the licensee's radwaste and transportation program had been conducted. The licensee had been responsive to correct audit findings and deficiencies.

The inspector reviewed the QA surveillances of the radwaste and transportation program. A QA Lead Monitor is assigned responsibility for conducting the QA surveillances and had conducted 17 radwaste and transportation surveillances in 1991. The inspector found the QA surveillances to be very thorough and of good quality. The licensee was responsive to QA surveillance findings.

#### 6.0 Training and Qualifications

The inspector reviewed various lesson plans and training records for individuals involved in the radwaste and transportation program. The licensee has in place a comprehensive program for qualifying and requalifying the RWOs. The Health Physics Technicians receive appropriate training on conducting transportation surveys during their initial and biannual requalification training. In November of 1990 the licensee had a contractor come onsite to provide training to the GRWSSs and the QA Lead Monitor. The GRWSSs and the QA Lead Monitor have also been attending offsite training on a periodic basis. General Employee Training includes appropriate training for all personnel onsite on minimizing radwaste production.

The inspector noted a weakness in the lack of periodic retraining of the QA auditors who conduct the annual audit of the radwaste and transportation program. The Lead Auditor for the last audit of this area had not received training on radwaste and transportation since 1986. IE Bulletin 79-19 states, in part, that to assure the safe transfer, packaging, and transport of low-level radioactive waste, each licensee is expected to provide training and periodic retraining in the DOT and NRC regulatory requirements, the waste burial license requirements, and operating procedures for all personnel involved in the transfer, packaging and transport of radioactive material.

The licensee stated that although the QA auditors do not receive formal periodic retraining, they do review the regulations prior to conducting an audit. However, there is no structured mechanism to train the auditors in such areas as industry radwaste and transportation incidents, changes to the regulations, and program or procedure changes. The licensee stated that they would review this matter. This item will be reviewed during a future inspection.

## 7.0 Radwaste Facility Tours

The inspector conducted several tours of the radwaste processing and storage facilities including the Old Radwaste Building, the New Radwaste Building, the Augmented Offgas Building, and the Interim Low Level Radwaste Storage Facility. The licensee's program for processing solid and liquid radwaste had not changed since the last radwaste and transportation inspection. Dry Active Waste (DAW) is segregated onsite. The majority of the DAW is bulk loaded into seal cans and sent to an offsite contractor for compaction. The licensee continues to use a contract service to process liquid radwaste using the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS). The licensee had on limited occasions, when operational conditions required, used the "B" waste evaporator to process high conductivity wastes. The licensee was in the process of refurbishing the "A" waste evaporator and plans on putting the "A" waste evaporator in service. The waste evaporator will only be used when operational conditions require liquid radwaste processing beyond the capabilities of the ALPS.

The transmittal letter of NRC Inspection Report 50-219/90-17 requested the licensee to provide the NRC a schedule for identifying and disposing of the contents of five tanks located in the Old Radwaste Building. The licensee response estimated that the contents of the tanks would be identified, characterized, and disposed of by the end of 1992.

The licensee made excellent progress in this area. The first two tanks were found to contain liquid which was processed through the ALPS. The licensee solidified and disposed of the contents of the second two tanks. The licensee is in the process of disposing of the contents of the fifth tank, the Spent Resin Tank. The licensee estimates that they will dispose of the remaining tank contents by the end of March 1992.

## 8.0 Review of Shipping Records and Scaling Factors

### 8.1 Shipping Records

The inspector reviewed several records of shipments of radioactive materials. The inspector independently calculated the waste type and waste classification for shipments and verified the accuracy of the licensee's determination of whether a shipment could be shipped as Low Specific Activity. No discrepancies were noted in any of the calculations. The shipping records were found to be complete and well documented.

The licensee had an effective program for ensuring that radioactive material was only transferred to facilities holding a current license authorizing them to receive the quantity and type of material. The licensee also maintained current copies of applicable shipping cask Certificate Of Compliance.

### 8.2 Scaling Factors

The inspector reviewed licensee procedures and documentation for establishing and updating scaling factors to ensure compliance with 10 CFR Part 61 requirements. The licensee annually updates scaling factors for active waste streams. Active waste streams include dewatered condensate resins, DAW, dewatered clean up resins, and concentrated wastes (i.e. evaporator bottoms). The licensee also developed scaling factors for unique waste streams, such as for the contents of the three tanks in the Old Radwaste Building, or for waste streams which are seldom processed, such as fuel pool silt. No deficiencies were noted in this area.

### 9.0 Exit Meeting

The inspector met with licensee representatives at the end of the inspection, on January 16, 1992. The inspector reviewed the purpose and scope of the inspection and discussed the findings.