



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

October 29, 1984

Docket No. 50-219
LS05-84-10-036

Mr. P. B. Fiedler
Vice President
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Post Office Box 388
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Dear Mr. Fiedler:

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWER PLANT BIOFOULING

Re: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Several incidents have occurred in the past in which fouling of safety systems have occurred because of infestation by Asiatic clams and blue mussels by way of the cooling water system for these safety systems. IE Bulletin 81-03 (April 10, 1981) was forwarded to holders of both operating licenses and construction permits, requesting that the holders determine whether clams or mussels were present in the vicinity of the nuclear power station and that they describe the actions being taken to prevent and to correct fouling by clams or mussels.

As a result of the incidents cited above, Generic Issue 51, "Proposed Requirements for Improving the Reliability of Open Cycle Service Water Systems," was established to devise means for detecting the presence of fouling agents, both biological and inorganic, and for controlling these agents so that no serious failures would result from any infestations. The Task Action Plan for Generic Issue 51 schedules completion of this issue at the end of FY 87. Some time after that will be needed to implement plant-specific solutions arising from the generic solutions.

The staff has decided, on a short-term basis, to select several plants to determine whether plants with high biofouling potential are aware of the risks of biofouling and whether these plants have implemented effective surveillance and/or control strategies designed to prevent biofouling so as to minimize the risk of plant damage while Generic Issue 51 is being completed. In this regard, please respond to the following questions:

1. Discuss, in detail, the surveillance methods that are being used to detect the presence of Asiatic clams and/or mussels in the plant water supplies, fire protection systems, and systems which provide cooling for safety-related systems.

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- 2. Discuss, in detail, the methods being used to control Asiatic clams and/or mussels in the plant water supplies and systems in question 1. Discuss the consideration given to systems required to mitigate transients and/or accidents where those systems are not used during normal operation. Discuss the consideration given to protect heat transfer surfaces from clam and/or mussel infestation.

We request that you provide this information within 60 days of receipt of this letter.

The reporting and/or recordkeeping requirements contained in this letter affect fewer than ten respondents; therefore, OMB clearance is not required under P.L. 96-511.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

John A. Zwolinski, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #5
Division of Licensing

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October 29, 1984

cc

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