



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

DRYWELL MONITORING PROGRAM

GPU NUCLEAR CORPORATION

OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-219

GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPUN), the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station licensee, previously, in a letter dated May 26, 1992, committed to conduct ultrasonic thickness (UT) measurements of the drywell at refueling outages (RO) and at other outages of opportunity. The areas to be monitored are the upper elevations and the sandbed regions of the drywell where corrosion had been detected. During the 14th RO (December 1992) the sandbed region of the drywell was cleaned of sand and rust, and coated. During the 15th RO the licensee made UT measurements at the sandbed region and at the upper elevations (cylinder and sphere) of the drywell. In a letter dated September 15, 1995, GPUN stated that they assessed the results of the inspection and determined: (1) there is no evidence of ongoing corrosion in the upper elevations and (2) the corrosion of the sandbed region has been arrested. On the basis of this finding the licensee has proposed to reduce their inspection program as follows:

1. For the upper elevations, UT measurements will be made during the 16th RO (September 1996) and during every second RO, thereafter. After each inspection, a determination will be made if additional inspection is to be performed.
2. For the sandbed region visual inspection of the coating as well as UT measurement of the shell will be made during the 16th RO. The coating will be inspected again during the 18th RO (year 2000). Based on the results of inspection of the coating, determinations will be made for additional inspections.

The licensee has provided a table of UT measurement results from the 15th RO inspection. This table shows the locations of the measurements, the nominal as-constructed thickness, the minimum as measured thickness, the ASME Code required thickness and the corrosion margin available.

On the basis of the information provided, the staff finds the proposed change to the licensee's previous inspection commitment to be reasonable and acceptable. However, since water leaking from the pools above the reactor cavity has been the source of corrosion, the licensee should make a commitment to the effect that an additional inspection of the drywell will be performed about 3 months after the discovery of any water leakage.

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Date: November 1, 1995

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