

DEC 17 1991

Docket No. 50-219

Mr. John J. Barton
Vice President and Director
GPU Nuclear Corporation
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
P.O. Box 388
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Dear Mr. Barton:

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF THE RECIRCULATION LOOP DISCHARGE VALVE ISOLATIONS EVENT (INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-219/91-29)

This letter refers to a follow-up safety inspection of a nonroutine event conducted by Mr. Samuel L. Hansell of this office on September 11, 12, and 24, 1991, at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. Mr. Hansell held discussions with Mr. Hildebrand and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

The objectives of the inspection were to: (1) review the Independent Offsite Safety Review Group (IOSRG) evaluation of the event; (2) review the computer printout to determine if all five recirculation discharge valves were fully closed at the same time; and (3) assess whether the licensee's corrective actions were adequate.

The inspector concluded the following: (1) in general, the IOSRG evaluation was a detailed and comprehensive review of the event and addressed the root cause for the event; (2) all five recirculation loop discharge valves were fully closed for approximately one minute; (3) the facility initiated a plant restart without correcting several procedural deficiencies which had contributed to the event, and (4) the safety significance of the actual event was minimal due to the short period of time that all five recirculation loops were isolated and the reactor water level at the time of the isolation was sufficient (i.e., above 185 inches). This level was sufficient to ensure that there was hydraulic communication between the reactor core and the downcomer annulus. Finally, if corrective actions had been adequately implemented following a similar event which occurred in June 1985, it is likely that the August 22, 1991, event could have been prevented.

Based on the results of the inspection, several of your activities were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements, as set forth in the four Notice of Violation, enclosed herewith as Appendix A. The violations are: (1) failure to take adequate corrective actions, as required by 10 CFR 50, Appendix "B," Criterion XVI, to preclude repetition of significant conditions adverse to quality; (2) failure to follow Isolation Condenser technical

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY HANSELL/OC/10/9/91 - 0001.0.0
10/09/91

9112260060 911217
PDR ADOCK 05000219
G PDR

1E01 - 1/1

specification 3.8.A, and (3) failure to follow and control procedures as stated in station procedure 107, "Procedure Control," and failure to follow system operating procedures for the Recirculation, Shutdown Cooling, and Isolation Condenser systems. There was one unresolved item regarding the issue of correcting significant plant problems prior to restart.

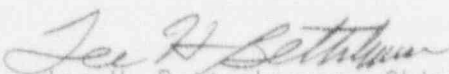
The violations have been categorized by severity level in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (Enforcement Policy). You are required to respond to this letter; and, in preparing your response, you should follow the instructions in Appendix A.

In addition, we are particularly concerned about two issues: the repetitive nature of the recirculation loop isolation event and the repetitive nonadherence to facility procedures as noted in the examples cited during this inspection. Accordingly, your response to the letter should also address those generic actions for your facility that are completed or planned which are focussed on avoiding recurrence of these two issues. We request you provide expected completion dates for those actions planned in the future.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed report will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. The responses requested by this letter are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Public Law No. 96-511.

Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Lee H. Bettenhausen, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure:

1. Appendix A, Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report No. 50-219/91-29

cc w/encls:

M. Laggart, Manager Corporate Licensing
G. Busch, Licensing Manager Oyster Creek
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
K. Abraham, PAO (2) All Inspection Reports
NRC Resident Inspector
State of New Jersey

bcc w/encls:
 Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
 Management Assistant, DRMA (w/o encls)
 L. Bettenhausen, DRS
 J. Joyner, DRSS
 W. Ruland, DRP
 Regional Coordinator, RI, EDO
 A. Dromerick, NRR/PD 1-4
 F. Young, SRI, Three Mile Island
 J. Beall, SRI, Beaver Valley
 E. Wenzinger, DRP
 R. Lobel, EDO
 R. Conte, DRS
 S. Hansell, DRS
 D. Florek, DRS
 DRS files (2)
 OL Facility File

RI:DRS
 Hansell/dmg/ajk/dmg
 *
 11/29/91

RI:DRS
 Conte
 11/25/91

RI:DRP
 Ruland
 11/ /91

RI:DRS
 Bettenhausen
 12/15/91

* perim
 Conc.

* per telcon w/ recommendation that the cover
 letter be revised to match the tone of the report.

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

HANSELL/OC/10/9/91 - 0002.1.0
 10/09/91

bcc w/encls:
 Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
 Management Ass'tant, DRMA (w/o encls)
 L. Bettenhausen, DRS
 J. Joyner, DRSS
 W. Ruland, DRP
 Regional Coordinator, RI, EDO
 A. Dromerick, NRR/PD 1-4
 F. Young, SRI, Three Mile Island
 J. Beall, SRI, Beaver Valley
 E. Wenzinger, DRP
 R. Lobel, EDO
 R. Conte, DRS
 S. Hansell, DRS
 D. Florek, DRS
 DRS files (2)
 OL Facility File

RI:DRS
 Hansell/ajk/dmg
 5/11/91
 10/31/91

RI:DRS
 Conte
 11/ /91

RI:DRP
 Ruland
 11/ /91

RI:DRS
 Bettenhausen
 11/ /91