

August 7, 1995
(Original Date)

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: OYSTER CREEK SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE (SALP)
REPORT NO. 50-215/95-99

This letter forwards the SALP report for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station for the period December 12, 1993, through June 24, 1995 (Enclosure 1). This assessment was conducted under the SALP process that was implemented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on July 19, 1993. In this process, the NRC rates the performance of licensees in four functional areas: Operations, Engineering, Maintenance, and Plant Support. The Plant Support area comprises radiological and effluent controls, chemistry, security, emergency preparedness, fire protection, and housekeeping.

The NRC noted improved performance at Oyster Creek during the SALP period. Plant management continue to demonstrate an excellent overall safety perspective with excellent oversight, support of and involvement in all plant activities. Independent safety review committees were effective in providing oversight and support for the line organizations. Improved program performance was demonstrated in operations and maintenance. Communications between plant and corporate organizations were very good. Self-assessments were excellent.

Although station management oversight of and involvement in plant activities was generally strong, there were critical omissions in management oversight and control of the modifications of the emergency diesel generators and the station blackout combustion turbines. These omissions resulted in subsequent prolonged time to make the modifications to the emergency diesel generators and undetected inoperability of the station blackout combustion turbines.

Operations performance improvements noted last period continued and a Category 1 rating was assigned. Operations management demonstrated an excellent overall safety perspective and strong management oversight and involvement. Operator performance during normal operations, transients, and the refueling outage was generally very good. The licensed operator training program continued to be a strength. Although several significant operator errors were identified, the number of human performance issues continued to decrease.

Maintenance was rated Category 2. Outage risk management was excellent. Significant improvements were observed in the surveillance program. However, there were several instances where communications failures, breakdowns in the control of maintenance, or weak supervisory oversight and technical support resulted in plant challenges.

Engineering was rated Category 1. Management involvement and oversight of the area generally resulted in continued high-quality engineering activities. Modifications were based on thorough calculations and analyses, and the evaluation of deficient equipment conditions was prompt and conducive to improved equipment reliability. In contrast to this strength were the significant weaknesses noted associated with the EDG modifications. However, those weaknesses were isolated to that modification, and the licensee's corrective actions for those weaknesses were thorough and effective.

Plant Support was rated Category 2. Performance in the radiation protection area was very good. Steady improvement was noted in exposure reduction; however, Oyster Creek continues to be challenged by the high in-plant source term. Additionally, several problems with control of shielding during the 15R refueling outage demonstrated a weakness in that area. Very good performance in the radiological effluent and environmental monitoring programs was also noted. There was continued excellent performance in the emergency preparedness area. Security program performance continued to be good; however, repetitive lighting problems were identified. Plant housekeeping and material condition were excellent.

We have scheduled a management meeting with you at 1:00 p.m. on August 24, 1995, at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station Training Building Assembly Hall (Building 12). The meeting is open to public observation. At the meeting, you should be prepared to discuss our assessment and any initiative you plan to take to address the weaknesses discussed in our evaluation.

Enclosure 2 provides the schedule of NRC inspections of your facility planned for the next year. We will inform you of any changes. The routine resident inspection effort is not included in this schedule.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:
Thomas T. Martin
Thomas T. Martin
Regional Administrator

Docket No. 50-219

Enclosures:

- (1) Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance Report 50-219/95-99
- (2) Planned NRC Inspections at Oyster Creek

cc w/encl:

G. Busch, Manager, Site Licensing, Oyster Creek
M. Laggart, Manager, Corporate Licensing
State of New Jersey
Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Rogers