

March 16, 1976

F. A. Dreher, Regional Coordinator
Office of Inspection & Enforcement

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE OYSTER CREEK SITE (TRACK #F10263FI)

Our Public Affairs Officer received a telephone request from an intervenor, Mr. William Crisman, for two old documents pertaining to the operation of Oyster Creek. I have attached the two documents as enclosures.

Our Public Affairs Officer discussed this matter with the assigned NRC lawyer, Mr. Grainey. Mr. Grainey requested that the material be forwarded to him and that he would handle it lawyer-to-lawyer. He agreed to either forward the documents to the requestor, or tell him why they are being withheld.

The first document is "Blue Sheet" No. 78, dated January 4, 1973. This document was placed in the Public Document Room and should be made available promptly.

The second document is an evaluation memorandum dated April 26, 1973, from Dr. Gallina to Mr. Stohr, both from Region I. This document was never released by NRC. However, you may remember that this document was inadvertently provided to a resident of New Jersey by Licensing two years ago. It received embarrassing publicity in the local area for a short period of time. As you will note, the evaluation memorandum has many opinions that are integrated throughout the memorandum. Intra-agency documents containing opinions may be withheld under 10 CFR 2.790, para. (a)(3). It is our recommendation that this memorandum not be released on that basis.

The two enclosures are forwarded to you for HQs' review and for forwarding to Mr. Grainey because of policy implications relating to the release of the evaluation memorandum. If you desire any further information, please let me know.

Dictated by JPO'R

James P. O'Reilly
Director

Enclosures:

1. ROB Notification of an Incident or Occurrence No. 78, dated January 4, 1973
2. Evaluation Memorandum, Gallina to Stohr, dated April 26, 1973

cc: Gen Roy

B/8

No. 78

Date 1/4/73

DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS
NOTIFICATION OF AN INCIDENT OR OCCURRENCE

Facility: JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY (OYSTER CREEK)

Problem:

RO Region I (Newark) was informed by the licensee by telephone on December 29, 1972, that a primary system blowdown had occurred earlier that day following a reactor scram at the Oyster Creek facility. The blowdown resulted from a malfunctioning relief valve. The following preliminary information was provided by the licensee:

1. At 6:08 a.m. on December 29, 1972, with the reactor operating at full power (650 Mwe), a turbine trip and reactor scram occurred as a result of an operator error.
2. During the ensuing transient, reactor pressure increased to 1070 psig, at which point the relief valves functioned in accordance with design. One relief valve failed to reseal, however, resulting in the discharge of an estimated 50,000 gallons of primary coolant to the torus.
3. Reactor pressure decreased from 1000 psig, at the start of the occurrence, to 660 psig within two minutes and to 200 psig within 60 minutes. The relief valve remained open until the reactor was depressurized. The cooldown rate of the reactor vessel during the first hour was 156° F/hour. The bases of the Technical Specifications assume 10 emergency cooldowns of 300° F/hr. during the life of the plant (normal cooldown limit - 100° F/hr.) Reactor water level was maintained within acceptable limits during the transient.
4. During the course of the depressurization, two safety-related equipment malfunctions occurred: (1) following receipt of a main steam isolation closure signal (occurs when reactor pressure decreases below 850 psig), one of the main steam isolation valves failed to close, and (2) one of the isolation condensers failed to operate due to a malfunctioning valve. Isolation of the reactor was accomplished by proper operation of the redundant main steam isolation valve in the affected steam line.
5. No radioactivity releases to the environs resulted from the occurrence. The plant is currently in the cold shutdown condition. The licensee is investigating the cause of the failures of the primary coolant relief valve, the main steam isolation valve and the isolation condenser condensate return valve. Disposition of the 50,000 gallons of reactor coolant, which has mixed with chromated

(rust inhibitor) torus water, is of immediate concern to the licensee in that the amount exceeds available storage capacity and the presence of the rust inhibitor prevents discharge to the environs. The licensee is examining means of temporary storage at the site. The plant will be returned to operation following completion of the investigations and appropriate repairs.

Action:

1. An RO inspector is at the site to obtain detailed information on the occurrence. Further action by RO will be based on the results of this inspection.
2. The State of New Jersey and the Washington and Northeast Offices of the Office of Information Services have been informed by telephone.
3. Commissioner Ramey's Technical Assistant, Commissioner Doub's Technical Assistant and the Staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy are being informed by copy of this notification.

Contact:

Further information on this problem can be obtained from:

D. C. Kirkpatrick - X7421
J. G. Keppler - X7421
R. H. Engelken - X7421

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See Page 3

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