

GPU Nuclear Corporation

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> April 10, 1992 C321-92-2117

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Attention: Document Control Desk Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject:

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Docket No. 50-219

Special Report No. 92-01

Enclosed is Special Report No. 92-01 which is submitted in accordance with technical specification 3.12.G.3.

If there are any questions, please call Mr. Michael Heller, Licensing Engineer, at '509) 971-4680.

Barton

President and Director

dustar Crook

Enclosure

cc: NRC Region 1 Administrator

NRC Resident Inspector

Oyster Creek NRC Project Manager

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GPU Nuclear Corporation is a subsidiary of the General Public Utilities Corporation

Special Report 92-01

Report Date: April 10, 1992

Occurrence Date: February 27, 1992

Identification of Occurrence:

The carbon dioxide (CO_2) fire suppression system for the 4160 volt switchgear was inoperable for greater than 14 days which requires a special report per technical specification 3.12.G.3.

Description of Occurrence:

On February 26, 1992, a CO_2 system valve stem leaking CO_2 was being repaired. Removal of insulation necessary to repair the leakage revealed corroded pipe and fittings which indicated the potential for failure of these components. On February 27, 1992, it was decided to exhaust the CO_2 from the tank and make repairs. The system was declared inoperable and a continuous firewatch with backup fire suppression equipment was established in accordance with technical specification 3.12.G.2.

Corrective Action:

A thorough examination of the CO_2 system was conducted. The corrosion is attributed to moisture intrusion into the piping insulation and possibly electro-galvanic reaction. The piping insulation, which was not an NFPA or vendor requirement for the original installation, was not and will not be reinstalled to avoid future corrosion problems. Corroded components including the CO_2 tank were replaced and the system was declared operable on March 27, 1992 after successful completion of a system functional test.