



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS  
REGION 1  
970 BROAD STREET  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

Inquiry Report No. 50-219/73-05Q

Subject: Jersey Central Power & Light Co.  
Madison Avenue at Punchbowl Road  
Morristown, New Jersey

License No.: DPR-16

Facility: Oyster Creek  
Forked River, New Jersey

Title: High Stack Release Rate

Prepared by: *F. S. Cantrell, Jr.*  
F. S. Cantrell, Jr., Reactor Inspector

4/4/73  
Date

A. Date & Manner AEC was Informed:

By telephone call to the licensee on April 2, 1973.

B. Description of Particular Event or Circumstance:

During the return to power on March 31, 1973, following completion of a main steam isolation valve test, the stack release rate increased to a maximum of 235,000 uCi/sec. at approximately 7:30 AM. At this power level,  $\bar{E}$  was 0.39, which gave a limiting stack release rate of 540,000 uCi/sec. Power was increased in steps, reaching 1800 MWt on April 1, 1973. By April 2, 1973, the stack release rate had decreased to 165,000 uCi/sec. At this point,  $\bar{E}$  was .77, which gave a limiting stack release rate of 273,000 uCi/sec. Other pertinent facts:

1. Power was decreased to approximately 50% of normal on March 30, 1973 in order to perform a closure test on each of the main steam isolation valves. Technical Specifications require this test to be performed once per three months; however, following the failure of one of the main steam isolation valves to close on an isolation signal on December 29, 1972, Jersey Central increased the test frequency of these valves to once every six weeks.

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2. In order to avoid a reactor scram while performing a full closure test on these isolation valves, it is necessary to reduce power to less than 50% full power.
3. Following completion of these tests, the plant started picking up load at 7:00 AM on March 31, 1973.
4. An increase in stack release rate during power increases, and/or during positioning control rods is not unusual with the present reactor fuel. The licensee plans to remove the defective fuel assemblies during a refueling outage scheduled to begin April 14, 1973.

C. Action by Licersee:

Due to an increase in the indicated release rate at 7:30 AM, the power increase was stopped at 1400 MWt, a gas sample was taken in order to accurately measure the release rate, and to calculate the limiting release rates. Power was held at 1400 MWt (about 72%) to complete this analysis (until approximately 2:30 PM). During this period the indicated stack release rate decreased to approximately 150,000 uCi/sec., however, during subsequent power increases, the stack release rate increased to 165,000 uCi/sec. (TS limit is 273,000 uCi/sec.)

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