

SEP 21 1992

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: REACTOR WATER LEVEL COLD REFERENCE LEG INSTRUMENT
SAFETY ISSUE, REPORT NO. 50-219/92-18

This letter refers to a special safety inspection conducted by Mr. Samuel L. Hansell on August 25, 26, and 27, 1992, at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. At the conclusion of the inspection, Mr. Hansell held discussions of our findings with those members of your staff identified in Section 2.0 of the enclosed report.

The objective of the inspection was to review the operational readiness of the facility with respect to the recent reactor water level safety concern. The cold reference leg reactor water level noncondensable gas problem is being addressed to ensure the continued health and safety of the general public.

The inspector concluded that the operator knowledge level, operator training, and the guidance in existing plant procedures were adequate to ensure the continued safe operation of the plant, in light of the most recent reactor water level instrument concerns.

However, one problem area was noted in the facility's response to reactor water level concerns contained in the General Electric Information Letter, SIL No. 470, dated September 16, 1988. Specifically, the facility did not document the exact slope of the cold reference leg reactor water level instrumentation, even though plant personnel questioned the water level instrument accuracy. This item is unresolved pending completion of licensee action and review by NRC staff on a future inspection.

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. No response to this letter is required.

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Mr. John J. Barton

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Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Richard Conte, Chief, BWR Section, DRS at (215) 337-5210.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report No. 50-219/92-18

cc w/encl:

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

Mr. John J. Barton

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bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

DRS/EB SALP Coordinator

M. Hodges, DRS

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DRS File

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