



# Jersey Central Power & Light Company

MADISON AVENUE AT PUNCH BOWL ROAD • MORRISTOWN, N. J. 07960 • 539-6111

May 22, 1973

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director  
Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Region 1  
United States Atomic Energy Commission  
970 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

This letter is in reply to your letter of April 26, 1973 to Mr. I. R. Finfrock regarding the inspection and audit conducted by Dr. Gallina of your office on February 28 through March 2, March 6 and March 7, 1973.

The concerns identified in your letter were mainly in regard to our failure to maintain the proper sampling frequency as presently stated in the Oyster Creek Technical Specifications and the omission at times of the specific analyses incident to particular samples. This section of the Oyster Creek Technical Specifications relating to the environment was incorporated on November 1971 and contains the statement that the program will be conducted "as closely as conditions permit".

It must be noted that of the thirteen items listed in the enclosure to your letter, seven occurred prior to the introduction of the Environmental Program as identified in Table B-II-1 to the Oyster Creek Technical Specifications. Items 12 and 13 noted in your enclosure were corrected by hiring an outside contractor to obtain those samples obtained from bay locations. This action was taken in December, 1969, and since that date, surface water, silt and clam samples have been collected from the bay and analyzed as prescribed by Table B-II-1 of the Technical Specifications.

Corrective action to prevent reoccurrence of the remaining items listed in your enclosure has already been initiated by employing and implementing a more positive action towards the procuring of samples and subsequent follow up of outside contractor analyses. The staff at the plant who have the responsibility for the performance and conduct of the Environmental Program have instituted a control system whereby the proper surveillance and attention is directed towards this area. The plant personnel involved in the sample collecting and preparation have been instructed in the need for alerting their supervisor in those instances where samples cannot be collected so appropriate action can be taken.

Specific corrective action is needed in two main problem areas, air particulate monitoring and well water sampling. We propose to improve the well

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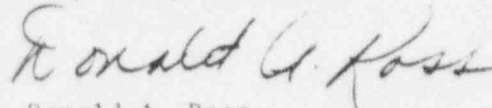
water sample collection by obtaining substitute samples where practical (i.e. if designated well sample is unobtainable, attempts to secure sample in the immediate area will be pursued). In the case of air samples where the majority of the sampling problems are caused by pump failure, we are investigating a preventive maintenance program whereby pumps will be replaced on a set frequency. Preventive maintenance will then be performed on the replacement pumps so they are ready to be substituted in the air sampling stations on approximately six-month intervals. This program hopefully will reduce the number of instances of pump failure in the field. By virtue of communication between the key personnel involved in this Environmental Program, we will have taken the necessary corrective action to avoid further violations.

The control system mentioned previously, along with proposed solutions to specific problems, should be fully implemented within thirty days.

The Environmental Report discusses in general terms many programs which are being conducted at Oyster Creek Station to evaluate various environmental parameters. However, it is not a commitment to continue these programs indefinitely nor is it a commitment to rigidly comply with any of the details of analyses or schedules mentioned in the report.

With respect to the specific program referred to in your letter as the Water Quality Monitoring Program (reference Oyster Creek Station Environmental Report, Section 5.5.2.3), the three times a year sampling of intake and discharge water is continuing. Those months parenthetically included in the Environmental Report were originally based upon the GPU Service Company Chemical Laboratory availability. The schedule is considered flexible and samples are presently taken in order to accommodate the laboratory schedule. Such a sampling schedule has no effect on the design of the monitoring program.

Very truly yours,



Donald A. Ross  
Manager, Nuclear Generating Stations

DAR:cs

# Jersey Central Power & Light Company

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June 5, 1973

Mr. A. Giambusso  
Deputy Director for Reactor Projects  
Directorate of Licensing  
United States Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20545



Dear Mr. Giambusso:

Subject: Oyster Creek Station  
Docket No. 50-219  
Drywell Head Manhole Cover

The purpose of this letter is to report a failure of the drywell head manhole cover double gasket seal to meet acceptable leakage as specified in Technical Specifications 4.5.F.1.D. This event is considered to be an abnormal occurrence as defined in the Technical Specifications, Paragraph 1.15.E. Notification of this event as required by the Technical Specifications, Paragraph 6.6.B, was made to AEC Region I, Directorate of Regulatory Operations, on May 27, 1973.

While attempting to pressurize the double gasket seal on the drywell head manhole cover, significant pressure decay was observed between the gaskets. A check of the manhole cover plate with leak teck showed that there was a significant amount of leakage through the outer gasket. No attempt was made to determine whether the inside gasket was leak tight. The allowable leakage for a penetration is 10% of  $L_t(20)$  or 19.9 SCFH.

Visual inspection of the gaskets showed that the outer gasket was brittle and would crack when pulled, but the inner gasket was less brittle and still had some resilience left when it was pulled.

Both gaskets on the manhole cover were replaced.

The test showed the outer gasket was leaking and the visual inspection indicated that the inner gasket was sound and might have been leak tight. (Note this point was not verified by any measurement.) If the inner gasket was tight, there is no particular safety significance except the lack of a redundant gasket seal.

The failure of both gaskets could result in primary containment leakage (into secondary containment) in excess of technical specification

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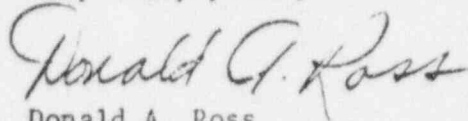
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limits and in excess of the leakage assumed for off-site dose calculations described in the basis for Technical Specification 4.5. However, there is a possibility that the inside gasket was tight and that primary containment leakage would be less than allowable.

To prevent recurrence of this type failure, a schedule for gasket replacement needs to be developed. This particular gasket is estimated to have been in service 4 or 5 years. In the future, it will be replaced every 3 years since it is located in a higher temperature region of the containment. As future experience dictates the need for gasket replacement in other areas of the containment, it will be factored into our replacement schedule.

Very truly yours,



Donald A. Ross  
Manager, Nuclear Generating Stations

DAR:cs  
Enclosures (40)

cc: Mr. J. P. O'Reilly, Director  
Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Region I