



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

May 15, 1973

Docket No. 50-219

Jersey Central Power & Light Company
ATTN: Mr. R. H. Sims, Vice President
Madison Avenue at Punch Bowl Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Gentlemen:

In your letter dated May 15, 1973, you have requested authorization to conduct low power physics tests with the reactor head removed and with a power level less than 5 Mwt.

We have reviewed this request and we have concluded that the proposed limited operation does not present significant hazards considerations not described or implicit in the Safety Analysis Report and that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the manner proposed.

Accordingly, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.59, you are hereby authorized to operate the Oyster Creek Reactor with the cycle 3 reload-fuel as described in Facility Change Request No. 4 and its Supplement No. 1 with the reactor vessel head removed and at fission power levels less than 5 Mwt for the purpose of conducting low power physics tests.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Skovholt
Assistant Director
for Operating Reactors
Directorate of Licensing

cc: GPU Service Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Thomas M. Crimmins, Jr.
Safety & Licensing Manager
260 Cherry Hill Road
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

George F. Trowbridge, Esquire
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Jersey Central Power & Light Company

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May 15, 1973

Mr. Donald J. Skovholt
Assistant Director for Reactor Operations
Directorate of Licensing
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545



Dear Mr. Skovholt:

In your letter to Jersey Central dated April 16, 1973, authorization to load replacement fuel in the Oyster Creek Reactor was granted, but in the absence of more detailed information, authorization to operate the reactor was withheld. We have accumulated the requested information and have filed it. However, in the meantime, we request authorization to conduct low power physics tests with the reactor head removed and power less than 5 MWt.

This authorization will permit work to continue at the plant while your staff reviews the additional information we have filed. The additional information you requested, has no bearing on operations at this low power level with the head removed, and is only required to satisfy your concerns about operation at the normal operating power levels near 1930 MWt.

Your continued cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Ivan R. Finrock, Jr.
Ivan R. Finrock, Jr.
Vice President

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