

FEB 18 1973

J. G. Keppler, Chief, Reactor Testing and Operations Branch
Directorate of Regulatory Operations, HQ

RO INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50/219/73-01
JERSEY CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY
OYSTER CREEK - BWR

The subject inspection report is forwarded for your action.

This was a special inspection to investigate the circumstances relating to a turbine trip on December 29, 1972, and the resulting primary system blowdown to the torus when a relief valve malfunctioned. Three safety related valve failures occurred during this one incident. This incident continues to point up the significance of valve problems at BWR reactor facilities. As you will recall, headquarters management was involved in promulgating additional valve testing at this facility prior to the facility's return to power. It is our opinion that the licensee was responsive and completed a meaningful valve testing program prior to return to power. In addition, this licensee has stated his intent to continue an increased testing frequency (over and above Technical Specification requirements) of several safety related problem valves. It appears to me that an increased testing frequency of certain failure prone valves is a subject for a generic type RO recommendation to DL for their consideration regarding changes to Technical Specification requirements.

One additional matter occurred, which the long term engineering ramifications are not fully understood, that is, a reported condition where the torus plates were observed to flex (stated to have been one half inch) during the time when relief valves were being tested. It is recommended that an engineering evaluation be completed regarding the failure potential from cyclic stressing of the torus structure and plates. Corrosion (rusting) of the torus (observed by the inspector) may also become a factor in reducing the life of the torus and/or contributing to a potential failure.

This facility is accumulating an array of extra tanks in which to store surplus torus water containing sodium dichromate. The State of New Jersey has a "zero" release limit on chromates. To date, we have not

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identified any safety issue in this matter; however, DL's evaluation is requested regarding the hazard potential that may exist in using a 25,000 gallon rubber bag for water storage in the torus area.

D. L. Capton,
Senior Reactor Inspector
Facility Operations Branch

Enclosure:
Subject Inspection Report No. 50-219/73-01

cc: RO Chief, Reactor Testing and Operations Branch (21)

RO:HQ (5)

PDR

Local PDR

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