

January 10, 1973

Mr. Tom Richardson  
Public Information Office, USAEC  
376 Hudson Street  
New York, New York 10014

Re: Jersey Central Power & Light Co.  
Oyster Creel  
Docket No. 50-219

Dear Tom,

I called your office on the morning of January 8, 1973 but you were out.

Your secretary suggested that I should mail to you a copy of the Newark Star Ledger article on the fish kill.

The purpose of our call was to advise your office of the incident, just in case you should receive an inquiry on the subject. We expect to issue an inquiry report which will go to the Public Document Rooms in the due course of events.

Sincerely,

Karl E. Plumlee  
Reactor Inspector

Enclosure:  
Article dated 1/9/73

B/351

OFFICE ▶ RO  
SURNAME ▶ Plumlee: smg  
DATE ▶ 1/10/72



# EVENING PRESS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1973

## Fish Kill Near Nuclear Plant Is Being Probed

WARETOWN — A two-pronged investigation by biologists was to begin today to determine what caused the death of several thousand fish found dead yesterday in Oyster Creek. They were discovered either frozen in the ice or floating in the creek within a mile of the Jersey Central Power & Light Co's. nuclear power generating plant.

The fish kill was similar to the one last January that destroyed thousands of menhaden and, as was the case last year, the nuclear plant was shut down for maintenance at the time.

Edwin Sherratt, regional director of public relations for Jersey Central Power & Light Co., said the plant has been shut down for 11 days, indicating the fish survived until the big drop in temperature over the past weekend.

Biologists from the company and the state Department of Environmental Protection were to join in the investigation of the latest fish kill.

The situation was reported by Henry Kurtz and Charles B. Mallie, marina operators along Oyster Creek, who said the dead fish were discovered yesterday morning. They also reported huge flocks of seagulls were seen in the area Sunday.

Hundreds of the dead fish were frozen in the ice in four lagoons off Bay parkway that runs parallel to the creek. Mr. Kurtz said most of those in the main stream of the creek had been eaten by the seagulls.

Mr. Kurtz said many more menhaden will float to the surface when the ice melts and that only a small percentage were frozen in the ice. He also said one sheepshead fish, a member of the bass family, and five or six of another unidentified species were also found.

The menhaden ranged in size up to 10 or 12 inches in length, about twice the size of the menhaden killed last year. He said some seagulls were so gorged on dead fish, they refused to touch several thrown to them.

Charles Amato, an engineer in the state Department of Environmental Protection, said the fish kill appears to be a repetition of last year's condition, but that he had information as to the cause.

Last year the fish kill was reported within 24 hours after the nuclear plant shut down for maintenance, but this year it was 10 days before dead fish were reported.

Mr. Sherratt said that since last year's kill, biologists from the National Marine Fishery Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have been studying the migratory habits of the menhaden to determine at what water temperature, menhaden leave the area.

He said the study, which began last summer, is to be completed later this month or early in February.

Mr. Sherratt said company officials are concerned at the possibility of closing down

the plant at the point in the fall when the fish would normally migrate so they would leave the area. Then the plant would start up after the fish left.

Mr. Mallie said menhaden normally depart from the area in late September or October, depending on the temperature.

Mr. Mallie, who said he has lived here permanently since 1957 and never saw a fish kill until after the plant began operating, said the temperature of the water in the creek is about 20 degrees higher than the water in Barnegat Bay and in nearby creeks.

Mr. Kurtz, owner of the Oyster Creek Marina, or Mr. Mallie, co-owner of the Briarwood Yacht Basin, one of two of four marina owners along the creek who recently filed a damage suit against JCP&L, claiming discharge from the plant has changed the creek from a freshwater stream to a salt-water channel and caused damage to their property and their businesses.

They claim the salt water attracts shipworms and other boring borers when they enter their untreated hulls and pilings and damage customers' boats.

Environmentalists and residents who opposed the construction of the \$100-million plant here seven years ago called it a danger to their life. They believe the increased temperature of the water causes the fish to die.

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Mr. Mallie, who said he  
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fish kill until after the plant  
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the creek is about 29 degrees  
higher than the water in  
Barnegat Bay and in nearby  
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Mr. Kurtz, owner of the  
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Mr. Mallie, co-owner of the  
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other marine life.

These fish floating in an eddy of water, and others visible beneath the  
ice, are a few of many found dead yesterday in Oyster Creek, Jersey Central  
Central Power & Light Co. nuclear powered generating plant.

# ARK EVENING PRESS

Ocean County News — 29

Classified \_\_\_\_\_ 30-37 Legals \_\_\_\_\_ 37

Lost and Found \_\_\_\_\_ 37

ASBURY PARK, N.J., TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1973

23

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