

FEB 19 1974

H. D. Thornburg, Chief, Field Support and Enforcement Branch,
Regulatory Operations, HQ

Oyster Creek (OC) Chromate Storage Problem, Jersey Central Power and
Light Co. (JCPL), Docket No. 50-219

This memo is forwarded for information and to recommend certain action.

OC's storage of approximately 100,000 gals. of water containing chromates (800 ppm) and radioactivity (3×10^{-4} uCi/cc) and resulting problems have previously been documented in the following reports and associated correspondence:

<u>RO Report No.</u>	<u>Date</u>
50-219/73-01	1/73
50-219/73-02	2/73
50-219/73-07	4/73
50-219/73-11	6/73

A situation which had been considered temporary and therefore acceptable, although undesirable, has existed for over a year now and has no clear end in sight. OC's letter dated 1/3/74 in addition to describing the extent of the latest spill,* describes measures to prevent recurrence. However, the letter provides little reassurance that additional spills will not occur. (An alternate storage method they describe to replace the temporary tank trucks consists of a 50,000 gallon rubber bag. The utility is also "investigating the feasibility of" an ultimate disposal method.)

RO:I has therefore taken the official position that this situation is unacceptable.

As a result of the RO:I review of this matter, it appears that technical specifications and FSAR commitments do not cover this situation. In addition, it does not seem that this matter can be handled within the scope of the present definition of a safety item, which speaks to those situations which threaten the health and safety of the public not to this type of situation which threatens the environs.

* These spills and the storage in general are matters of concern to the public and state officials. Also, the press has given this subject a fair amount of attention.

Handwritten initials: G/29

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DATE	2/15/74	2/15/74	2/15/74	2/15/74	2/15/74

In an attempt to deal directly with the disposal problem, RO:I had considered initiating action to have a meeting with all of the "concerned" agencies. The meeting was to be a "shirt-sleeve" working session of engineering types (as opposed to a legalistic confrontation). Initial discussions with those concerned (i.e., JCPL, State of New Jersey, DL Environmental Project Manager, EPB, RO:HQ, and EPA), indicated all were generally in favor of this approach. The objective of the meeting was to get all parties agreed upon, and the licensee committed to, a reasonable course of action to solve the problem within a specified time frame.

Several alternate approaches were also discussed with EPB, RO:HQ. Subsequent feedback from EPB, RO:HQ indicated that the Deputy Director for Field Operations favored an alternate approach rather than the aforementioned meeting. Therefore, we have not pursued setting up the meeting. It is our understanding that Leo Higginbotham is currently evaluating alternate approaches to handle this situation. Therefore, RO:I intends no further action at this time.

However, we do recommend that DL review this matter and impose some type of preventive requirement in the facility's Technical Specifications.

In addition we recommend that DL be requested to consider this type of chromate and rad waste storage in their assessment of the facility's environmental impact.

J. Philip Stohr, Chief
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 Special Program Section

cc: J. Davis
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