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D. L. Caphton, Senior Reactor Inspector, Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Region I

JERSEY CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY  
OYSTER CREEK  
RO SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT 50-219/74-01

This inspection was conducted to examine details concerning a report of unidentified leakage referenced to RO:I in a telephone conversation from a State of New Jersey representative. The increased leakage rate was apparently utilized in part, by JCP&L to avert a state injunction which would have barred a scheduled plant outage. The inspection further included observations of a fish kill (predominately menhaden) which occurred as had been predicted by the licensee.

A. Unidentified Leakage into the Drywell

Plant records reviewed indicated that T. S. limits (5 gpm) for unidentified leakage were not exceeded. The increased leakage rate was measured via the floor drain sump totalizing meter, and was attributed to a leaking Isolation Condenser drain valve.

B. Fish Mortalities

The fish population congregated at the discharge structure prior to the shutdown was sizeable, and the outage clearly precipitated fish mortalities. First visual evidence appeared about one-one and one half hours following the scheduled turbine trip. Approximately one-two dozen "snapper blues" were observed along the canal shoreline. Seven hours after the trip, increasing numbers of menhaden were observed to be dead and dying. Sea gull activity also increased markedly. Local residents were active in "cleaning up" the area and apparently use the fish for fertilizer and bait (chum). Current estimates as obtained verbally from an RO consultant place total number of mortalities at about 20,000. If this number is reasonably accurate the magnitude of the kill was considerably less than a similar kill which occurred last winter.

C. Staff Position

Section 5.5.2.4 (pp 5-28) of the Draft Environmental Statement by DL, reiterates the staff position that recurrent fish kills are an unacceptable condition of plant operation. The statement further notes

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that the applicant will be required to install appropriate controls and institute operating procedures that will minimize or eliminate such fish kills following winter shutdowns. The staff position was further provided to the State of New Jersey.

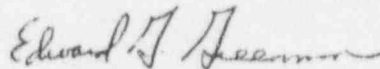
D. Comments and Action Requested

In my view just predicting additional kills at Oyster Creek is intolerable. Reactor shutdowns are going to occur. A year has elapsed since the last major kill and the licensee has not implemented a plan other than the running of one (1) dilution pump, to minimize the differential temperature.

It is recommended that this report be forwarded to Headquarters for action and that Licensing be contacted with respect to the following:

1. Timely issuance of Environmental Technical Specifications for Oyster Creek in recognition of the prolonged delays and slippage concerning the full term operating license.
2. Establishment of a schedule coordinated with the licensee concerning a JCP&L course of action designed to mitigate the ecological consequences of winter shutdowns and to be implemented by the fall of 1974.

I do not believe that Regulatory should be left in the middle of the particular problem area at Oyster Creek. The staff position is clear and Technical Specifications are needed, prior to winter of 74-75.



Edward G. Greenman  
Reactor Inspector