


Jersey Central Power & Light Company



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MEMBER OF THE
General  Public Utilities Corporation

October 17, 1975

GD-75-008

Mr. George Lear, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Reactor Licensing
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Lear:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket No. 50-219
Control Rod Drive Technical Specifications

Your letter of September 25, 1975, proposed changes to our Technical Specifications for control rods to mitigate the consequences of control drive failure from possible cracking in the collet housings of the drives. It is noted that such cracking has been observed at three facilities.

The Oyster Creek Station has been in commercial operation since the latter part of 1969. During this period, the Oyster Creek Station has never experienced a control rod drive that could not be moved with scram pressure. Also, approximately twenty control rod drives were examined for collet housing cracking (i.e., dye penetrant checked) subsequent to the observed cracking at the three facilities. These drives were typical of those currently in service since some drives are replaced during each refueling outage as part of the preventive maintenance program. That is, drives that are removed for preventive maintenance are replaced by drives that have been removed from earlier outages. Such cycling assures that spare drives (i.e., those to be used as replacements and those that were examined for collet housing cracking) are a representative sample of the drives in service. No evidence of collet housing cracking was found in any of the control rod drives inspected.

Our five-year operational history and specific inspection results convince us that the collet housing cracking is not a problem at the Oyster Creek Station. We do not, however, take exception to your plans to impose the specifications included in your letter of September 25, 1975 at this

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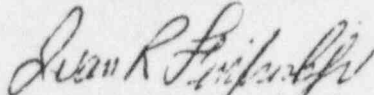
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time. We do plan to document formally our inspection data, operational history, and analysis of information provided by the General Electric Company on the possible cause of and preventive measures for the observed cracking. These will be submitted to you in support of a request to remove the imposed specifications.

Very truly yours,


Ivan R. Finfrock, Jr.
Vice President

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U. S. N. R. C.
OCT 31 1975

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