To: James P. O'Reilly
Directorate of Regulatory Operations
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

From: Jersey Central Power & Light Company
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station Docket #50-219
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Subject: Abnormal Occurrence Report No. 50-219/74/ 6

The following is a preliminary report being submitted in compliance with the Technical Specifications paragraph 6.6.2.

Preliminary Approval:

J. T. Carroll 12/23/74
J. T. Carroll, Jr. Date

cc: Mr. A. Giambusso

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PDR FOIA
DEKOK95-258 PDR

Report Date: 1/23/74 Time of Occurrence: 1000

Initial Telephone Report Date: 1/22/74 Date of Occurrence: 1/22/74

OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
FORKED RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08731

Abnormal Occurrence
Report No. 50-219/74/ 6

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE:

Violation of the Technical Specifications, paragraph 3.5.A.6. Twenty-four hours after placing the mode selector switch into RUN, the torus atmosphere contained 6.2% O_2, which is above the limit of 5.0% O_2.

This event is considered to be an abnormal occurrence as defined in the Technical Specifications, paragraph 1.15B.

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE:

____	Steady State Power	____	Routine Shutdown Operation
____	Hot Standby	____	Load Changes During Routine Power Operation
____	Cold Shutdown	____	Other (Specify)
____	Refueling Shutdown		
X	Routine Startup Operation		

Reactor Power - 1075 MWt, ~340 MWe
Recirculation Flow - 7.4×10^6 gpm
Feedwater Flow - 3.8×10^6 lb/hr
Feedwater Temperature - 275°F
Reactor Pressure - 1020 psig
Reactor Water Level - 78" Yarway

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE:

At 2030 on January 21, 1974, the primary containment inerting process was initiated by first performing a calibration on the torus/drywell O_2 analyzer, as per the operating procedure. The torus atmosphere was then inerted with nitrogen to 4.8% O_2 as indicated in the drywell/torus oxygen recorder and drywell inerting was then commenced. During this process, a "zero check" on the analyzer showed that the instrument "zero" was low. Correcting this condition brought the indicated O_2 level

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in the torus to 6.2%. Since drywell inerting was already in progress, it was decided to reinert the torus after drywell inerting was complete. Due to a misunderstanding on the part of the duty Shift Foreman, an attempt was made to inert the drywell to less than 1% O_2 content. Prior to attaining this condition, the plant nitrogen supply reached a level where further consumption in the inerting process would have exhausted the operational supply needed for the nitrogen/air system in the drywell.

An orderly plant shutdown was started 24 hours after going into the RUN mode at 1000 on January 22, 1974 at a 30 MWe/hr. rate. Power was reduced to 292 MWe at which time a temporary Technical Specification change was obtained which allowed operation at 50% reactor power with greater than 5% O_2 concentration in the primary containment until 1230 on January 24, 1974.

APPARENT CAUSE OF OCCURRENCE:

____	Design	____	Procedure
____	Manufacture	____	Unusual Service Condition
____	Installation/ Construction	____	Inc. Environmental
X	Operator	____	Component Failure
		____	Other (Specify)

The duty Shift Foreman in charge of this operation misjudged the capacity of the plant nitrogen system. In addition, the Foreman was informed that a nitrogen truck was enroute and would arrive Tuesday morning with the additional nitrogen needed to complete the inerting process. Unfortunately, due to internal problems, the nitrogen vendor was unable to meet the required delivery time.

ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE: The significance of this event lies in operating the reactor at power with an inadequately inerted containment which, under design bases LOCA conditions, would have created a condition whereby the probability of experiencing an explosive concentration of oxygen and hydrogen in the containment would have been increased.

CORRECTIVE ACTION. Corrective action to prevent recurrence of this event is to be determined after the appropriate review process by the Plant Operations Review Committee.

FAILURE DATA. Not applicable.

Prepared by: Arthur H Poore Date: 1/17/74