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Writer's Direct Dial Number:

December 7, 1984

Dr. Thomas E. Murley, Administrator
Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Dr. Murley:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket No. 50-219
Response to IE Bulletin 84-03
Refueling Cavity Water Seal

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the required response as requested in the subject IE Bulletin. GPUN has reviewed the Bulletin and has determined that it is not applicable to Oyster Creek.

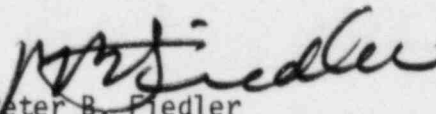
The refueling cavity water seal at Haddam Neck as discussed in the subject Bulletin, is a completely different design from that at Oyster Creek. The seal at Haddam Neck employs an annular plate with inner and outer pneumatic seal rings. The effectiveness of this type of seal relies on proper alignment, fit and tolerances. The seal configuration used at Oyster Creek consists of 2 (two) integral welded mechanical seals. One of the seals connects the reactor vessel to the primary containment vessel (Drywell) and the other seal connects the Drywell to the Reactor Building cavity wall. Both of these mechanical seals are expansion bellows made of stainless steel and welded to support plates. This type of cavity seal relies on the strength of welds and the integrity of the base metal. Therefore, the potential for a gross seal failure at Oyster Creek is low since a sudden break of the welds or base metal is very unlikely to occur.

In conclusion, a catastrophic failure of the reactor cavity seal, similar to that which occurred at Haddam Neck, is highly unlikely to occur at Oyster Creek and the concerns indicated in the subject Bulletin are not applicable to Oyster Creek.

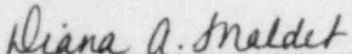
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Should you require any further information on this subject please contact
Kathy Barnes, Oyster Creek Licensing Engineer at (609) 971-4909.

Very truly yours,


Peter B. Fiedler
Vice President and Director
Oyster Creek

Sworn to and Subscribed
before me this 7th day
of December 1984.


A Notary of New Jersey
DIANA A. MALDET
A Notary Public of New Jersey
My Commission Expires June 5, 1986

PBF:KB:raj

cc: NRC Resident Inspector
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Forked River, NJ 08731

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