

January 2, 1997

Mr. Michael B. Roche  
Vice President and Director  
GPU Nuclear, Incorporated  
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station  
P.O. Box 388  
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-219/96-11 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Roche:

On December 1, 1996, the NRC completed an integrated inspection at your Oyster Creek reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the six-week period covered by this inspection period, the conduct of activities at the Oyster Creek facility was generally characterized by safety-conscious operations, sound engineering and maintenance practices, and careful radiological work controls. However, a violation of NRC requirements occurred concerning the failure to conduct a written 10 CFR 50.59 safety evaluation. This violation is similar to one issued in NRC Inspection Report 50-219/96-09. It is important that you emphasize to your staff that changes to equipment or its operation as described in the UFSAR requires a written 10 CFR 50.59 safety evaluation, and that a thorough review of all applicable design basis documents is necessary to that end.

The violation cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice), and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are not required to respond to this letter because your response to the similar recent violation documented in Inspection Report 50-219/96-09 should address this violation. If, however, you feel additional information or perspective on the details surrounding the violation is relevant, please respond as specified in the enclosed Notice within 30 days of the receipt date of this letter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

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Mr. Michael B. Roche

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We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed By:**

Peter W. Eselgroth, Chief  
Projects Branch 7  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket/License: 50-219/DPR-16  
72-1004

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report No. 50-219/96-11

cc w/encls:

G. Busch, Manager, Site Licensing, Oyster Creek  
M. Laggart, Manager, Corporate Licensing  
State of New Jersey

Mr. Michael B. Roche

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