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October 5, 1998
1940-98-20476

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sir:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket No. 50-219
IR 98-003: Additional Response

As requested by your correspondence of July 17, 1998, Attachment I provides you with the status of Oyster Creek's communications system, including planned upgrades.

The response to the violation regarding the specific issue of the loss of the radio repeater batteries due to the lack of battery maintenance was forwarded to you on August 14, 1998. However, due to a recent series of upgrades and equipment repairs, we have delayed our additional response on the generic topic of communications until this time so as to provide you with an accurate status.

Should you require further information, please contact Brenda DeMerchant, Oyster Creek's Licensing Engineer, at 609-971-4642.

Very truly yours,

Michael B. Roche
Vice President and Director
Oyster Creek

MBR/BDE

Attachment

cc: Administrator Region 1
NRC Project Manager
NRC Resident Inspector

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ATTACHMENT I

In order to address concerns regarding the Oyster Creek communication systems the following actions have been taken, or are planned and scheduled.

Paging System:

A concentrated walkdown by the Operations department helped to identify the weak areas of paging system coverage throughout the plant. The Maintenance department was then tasked with repairing speakers and phones that were not working in the Reactor and Turbine Buildings:

To date, the repairs to equipment in the following areas have been completed:

Intake/Dilution structure; IA2 switchgear, 119' page phone, amplifier tube replacement, Turbine Building (14 locations), C Battery Room/4160V Area, Diesel Generator #1 and 2 speakers, and amplifier 11.

Additional repairs to speakers in the Turbine and Reactor buildings are in progress, and are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Other system upgrades will be instituted after the current 17R outage is completed and are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

In addition, the surveillance test procedure for the plant alarm system is in the process of being revised to include checks of various locations each month. The revision is expected to be completed by November 30, 1998.

A project has been proposed to install new speakers and phones in several locations throughout the plant that require additional coverage. The installation of the new speakers and phones is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

An evaluation of the use of the general paging system, which will minimize the use of the Control Room as the central point of general page announcements, is ongoing and expected to be completed by November 30, 1998.

Radio System

To address problems recognized with the radio system, the following actions have been taken or are planned and scheduled:

It was recognized that a degradation in Channel 3 of the radio system had occurred. Actions have been taken to evaluate repeater replacement for all three channels. This replacement also considers the need for the antenna system to be upgraded. The new repeaters are to be temporarily located in an alternate location in order to allow the current radio system to be refurbished. This alternate location will also be used during the decommissioning of Oyster Creek when parts of the Reactor Building will be disassembled.

A radio database has been developed and is used for tracking portable radio units. This database provides a method of tracking and evaluating recurring problems with portable radios as well as minimizing the time it takes for repairs.

Several Preventive Maintenance (PM) tasks are being developed to track radio and battery maintenance. They are expected to be issued by December 30, 1998.

Plans are underway for the purchase of a new service unit for portable radios. This unit will allow the Communication technicians to tune the portable radios to a tighter bandwidth which should help to block out some of the background noise presently experienced.

A temporary radio and paging system deficiency log which has forms and maps to allow anyone to report a deficiency in the plant communications system has been established in the Work Week Manager's Office. This deficiency log is used to input information into the radio database as well as keeping the Maintenance department's Hot List for paging system repairs up to date. This temporary deficiency log will be used until the backlog of repairs has been reduced to an acceptable level. At that point the Job Order system will be used to schedule repairs.

Finally, in response to NRC's concern regarding Communications Procedure No. 343 listing the plant public address (PA) system and the sound powered phone as the backup to the repeater system- the procedure has been revised to delete reference to the sound powered phone system and lists the backup to the repeater system as the paging and phone system as appropriate.