

October 7, 1998

Mr. Michael J. Mulligan
5420 Maltdie Court
Sugar Hill, GA 30518

Subject: CONCERNS YOU RAISED TO THE NRC REGARDING OYSTER CREEK
INSPECTIONS

Dear Mr. Mulligan:

This letter refers to your concerns raised to Mr. V. Dricks on September 13, 1998, in which you expressed concerns related to Oyster Creek. You were concerned about the thoroughness of NRC inspections as documented in NRC Integrated Inspection Report 50-219/98-03. We have carefully reviewed your letter and are providing feedback for your consideration. However, if you still have concerns regarding NRC inspection activities at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, please feel free to contact the Inspector General at:

Office of the Inspector General
D33 Two White Flint North
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

The NRC continues to be concerned about plant transients, and plant and operator responses at all nuclear facilities, including Oyster Creek. For the instances which occurred recently at Oyster Creek, we performed follow-up inspections by three inspectors (one a Region I specialist) over a two to three week period; this is typical for these types of transients and plant events. The inspection report which you reviewed provides the summary results of the inspections which took place. Inspector assessments and documentation that support the conclusions are not described in minute detail in the report, due to attempts on our part to keep reports from being cumbersome and difficult to read.

Regarding your concerns with the fire protection program at Oyster Creek, problems have been identified as you noted. However, these problems were offset by positive aspects of the fire protection program, as noted in NRC Integrated Inspection Report 50-219/98-03, and earlier reports. Therefore, we concluded that overall the fire protection program at Oyster Creek was good. //

Our inspectors have reviewed the controlling procedures for starts of the main feedwater pumps, and observed that plant operators complied with the restart requirements, which are based on vendor recommendations. Additionally, we recently had another Region I specialist inspector review the status of the electrical cables at the site, although the inspection report has not been issued yet. Our inspectors have also verified that the feedwater system is receiving the proper plant management attention, as required by the NRC Maintenance Rule. Leo 1

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Mr. M. Mulligan

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Regarding your concerns with the recirculation pump trips, although the pump trips do not significantly challenge plant operators, and they are not safety related components, we have also verified that they are receiving proper management attention, as required by the NRC Maintenance Rule.

Our resident inspectors and a Region I specialist reviewed the two emergency diesel generator start failures you referred to. Please note that the failures were identified during required surveillance testing, which is when failures like these should be identified. Also note that at no time were both emergency diesel generators unavailable. Our inspectors personally verified the troubleshooting, failed components, and corrective actions. Emergency diesel generator start failures are rare, and none have occurred at Oyster Creek since June. We have also verified that the emergency diesel generators are receiving proper management attention, as required by the NRC Maintenance Rule.

Enclosed with this letter is a brochure entitled "Reporting Safety Concerns to the NRC," which provides a description of the NRC process in these matters.

Thank you for notifying us of your concerns. Should you have any additional questions, or if the NRC can be of further assistance in this matter, please call me at 610-337-5234.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

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

Docket No. 50-219

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Mr. M. Mulligan

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
475 ALLENDALE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415

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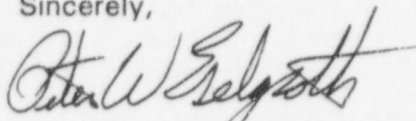
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Peter W. Eselgroth, Chief
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