

SEP 19 1988

Docket No. 50-219

GPU Nuclear Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Eugene E. Fitzpatrick
Vice President and Director
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
P. O. Box 388
Forked River, NJ 08731

Gentlemen:

Subject: Inspection No. 50-219/88-24

This letter refers to the special safety inspection conducted by Messrs. Herbert Kaplan and James Trapp of this office on July 15, 1988 and July 18-22, 1988 at Oyster Creek. The results of the inspection were discussed with Mr. John Barton on July 22, 1988 and in a telephone conference on August 12, 1988.

Areas examined during this inspection are described in the NRC Region I Inspection Report, which is enclosed with this letter. This inspection was directed at the failure of the Main Steam Isolation Valve Stem that occurred on July 9, 1988. The inspection consisted of examination of the sequence of events, valve maintenance and surveillance history, related industry events, and Licensee corrective actions including review of results of ongoing metallurgical failure analysis.

Within the scope of the inspection no violations were identified. One item which remains unresolved is the root cause of the failure and corrective action required to prevent recurrence. With regard to this item, we request that prior to restart from the upcoming 12R outage, you provide for NRC review your proposed maintenance and surveillance program directed at ensuring MSIV reliability and avoiding future valve stem failures. Your submittal should include the engineering basis for your program including root cause analysis.

The response requested by this letter is not subject to the clearance procedures of the office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

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Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Jacque P. Durr

Jacque P. Durr
Engineering Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosures: NRC Region I Inspection Report No. 50-219/88-24

cc w/encl:

M. Laggart, BWR Licensing Manager
Licensing Manager, Oyster Creek
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
State of New Jersey

bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
Management Assistant, DRMA (w/o encl)
Section Chief, DRP
C. Stahal, PM, NRR
Robert J. Bores, DRSS
David Ward, Region II
C. Y. Cheng, NRR

RI:DRS
Kaplan/gcb/rw
4K
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RI:DRS
Trapp
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Strosnider
9/9/88

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Durr
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