

October 29, 1998

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

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF THE CORE SPRAY INTERNALS INSPECTION RESULTS
OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION (TAC NO. MA3890)

Dear Mr. Roche:

The Oyster Creek Generating Station Operating License, paragraph 2.C.5, regarding subject inspection requires that authorization be obtained from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff before the plant is restarted from the refueling outage. By letter dated October 22, 1998, GPU Nuclear, Inc., submitted the Core Spray System Inspection Program - 17R Topical Report No. TR-119, Project No. 32005, for NRC staff review.

In your letter, you informed the staff that visual examinations were performed in accordance with the recommendations in the BWRVIP-18, "BWR Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines." The inspection scope included the in-vessel annulus piping, sparger assemblies, sparger brackets, and repair clamps. A supplemental air test was also performed to identify the through wall flaws. You indicated that cleaning with a nylon brush attached to an underwater motor was necessary prior to the inspection of the core spray annulus piping welds and spargers end cap welds. Based on the results of the inspection, you have concluded that there is no change from previous inspections, because no new indications have been identified and there is no change in existing indications or flaws.

It should be noted that the staff has completed its review of BWRVIP-18 and a safety evaluation report (SER) was issued on June 8, 1998. The staff has endorsed the BWRVIP-18 for generic applications to all BWRs; however, the staff has concerns regarding some of the recommendations in BWRVIP-18. These concerns are identified in the staff's SER. Therefore, if you intend to follow the BWRVIP-18 guidance in the future, you should address these concerns on a plant-specific basis. Currently, the staff is in the process of resolving these concerns with the BWRVIP and expects resolution soon.

On the basis of the staff's review of the information provided in the report, the staff concludes that the inspection results are acceptable. Therefore plant restart can be authorized. This authorization applies to license condition 2.C.5.

This completes the staff's effort on TAC No. MA3890.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Ronald B. Eaton, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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M. Roche
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