

November 25, 1998

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 INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-219/98-09 AND NOTICE
OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Roche:

On October 25, 1998, 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 report, your conduct of activities at the Oyster Creek facility was characterized by safety-conscious operations, sound engineering and maintenance practices, and careful radiological work controls. We noted your staff's risk-informed planning, commitment to personnel and nuclear safety, error-free tagging evolutions, and strong management oversight during the conduct of refueling activities.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred. An NRC inspector identified that a security force member left a running unlocked vehicle unattended in the protected area. This violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding it are described in detail in this inspection report. The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violation, the corrective actions taken to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed in this inspection report. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless the description therein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide additional information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice.

You have established an acceptable radiation protection program to support refueling outage 17R as evidenced by the appropriate briefings, postings and ALARA controls that were observed in the reactor, drywell and turbine buildings. Weaknesses in the areas of foreign material exclusion and radiological housekeeping were identified. A number of small loose articles were found near the downcomers in the drywell, and poor housekeeping practices in high dose rate areas could lead to additional occupational exposures during outage close-out.

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Mr. Michael B. Roche

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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).

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Peter W. Eselgroth, Chief
Projects Branch No. 7
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure(s): NRC Inspection Report No. 50-219/98-09
Notice of Violation

cc w/encl:

G. Busch, Manager, Nuclear Safety & Licensing
M. Laggart, Manager, Licensing & Vendor Audits
State of New Jersey

Mr. Michael B. Roche

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