



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

August 15, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert Heishman, Chief  
Vendor Program Branch (VPB)  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

THRU: Ellis Merschoff, Chief  
Reactive Inspection Section, VPB  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

FROM: Joseph J. Petrosino  
Reactive Inspection Section, VPB  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT, DISPOSITION OF AN EGCB AND REGION I PROBLEM  
CONCERNING LOW OIL LEVEL IN GENERAL ELECTRIC (GE) SUB-  
STATION TRANSFORMERS AT THE OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERA-  
TING STATION

REFERENCE: 1. Memorandum, R. Baer (EGCB) to G. Zech (VPB), dated 2/7/86,  
above subject.  
2. VPB inspection report # 99901001, dated 4/4/86, General  
Electric-King of Prussia, PA.  
3. LER # 50-219/85-14, above subject, Oyster Creek, dated  
8/10/85.  
4. NRC Region I inspection report No. 50-219/85-28, dated  
11/7/85.

BACKGROUND:

NRC Region I inspectors performed an inspection in late 1985 as a result of a low oil event in two substation transformers at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS). The OCNGS problem concerned two GE 4160/480-volt unit substation transformers which supply redundant 480-volt vital loads. A switchgear thermographic survey at OCNGS coincidentally identified inconsistent temperatures in the unit transformer cooling fins. These inconsistent temperatures led to the discovery of low oil levels in the two transformers. However, this condition did not appear to affect the operation of the transformers.

Following the discovery of the low oil level condition, the licensee shut down the reactor, contacted GE for technical assistance, and added oil to both of the transformers. Region I personnel and the OCNGS resident inspectors followed these licensee actions, subsequently issued their inspection report, and transmitted a draft Information Notice (IN) to R. Baer (EGCB) for IE's review and action.

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DISCUSSION:

As a result of the inspection report and draft IN transmitted from Region I to IE/EGCB, a VPB inspection was recommended by R. Baer (EGCB). J. C. Stewart (EGCB) and I comprised the VPB inspection team. The purpose of this inspection was to review the circumstances of the low oil level problem at OCNGS, and to determine whether there was a basis for an IN.

Following my telephone discussions with GE personnel at Rome, Georgia and San Jose, California, it was decided that a VPB inspection would not be productive. Therefore, I scheduled a series of meetings at the manufacturing facility where the transformers were built in Rome, Georgia. J. C. Stewart and I met with GE representatives on June 10-12, 1986. During the meetings, we reviewed procedures, design data, problem logs, and interviewed GE personnel. We were taken on a tour of the plant and observed the manufacturing processes. GE appears to have adequate manufacturing process controls and major deviations were not apparent.

CONCLUSION:

On the basis of discussions with GE personnel, observations by the inspectors, conservatism in the design basis for oil levels, and lack of other similar industry identified transformer problems, an IE Information Notice should not be issued at this time.

This incident appears to be an isolated occurrence; however, some of the information collected should be factored into the operating plant maintenance programs (see attached memorandum cover sheet). Therefore, all of the information obtained was transmitted by J. C. Stewart (EGCB) to the Maintenance and Training Branch of NRR (see attachments).

PERSONS CONTACTED:

W. J. Blad	Engineering Services Manager, GE
J. W. Martinschnig	Process Control Engineer, GE
E. J. Hritz	Nuclear Service Manager, GE
R. J. Ristow	Senior Design Engineer, GE
E. C. Smith	Lead QA Engineer, GE
S. Pullani	US NRC, Region I
C. Skov	GE, NEBO-San Jose
L. Bowers	QA Manager, GE
N. Felmus	GE, NEBO-San Jose
D. Tibbils	GE, NEBO-San Jose
A. Dickinson	Electrical Engineering Supv., GPU Nuclear, Oyster Creek

Robert F. Heishman

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No further action is deemed appropriate for the VPB.

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Joseph J. Petrosino  
Reactive Inspection Section, VPB  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Attachments:

1. Memorandum for S. D. Ebnetter (Region I) from R. L. Baer, dated July, 23, 1986.
2. Memorandum for H. R. Booher (NRR) from R. L. Baer, dated July 24, 1986.

cc with attachments:

VPB Docket File #9991062  
RLBaer, IE  
SDEbnetter, Region I  
JMTaylor, D:IE  
ELJordan, DEPER

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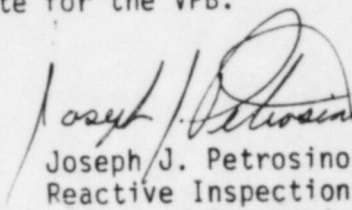
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