

September 22, 1987

Docket No. 50-219

Mr. P. B. Fiedler  
Vice President and Director  
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station  
Post Office Box 388  
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Dear Mr. Fiedler:

Subject: LICENSEE ACTIONS TAKEN AND ACTION PLANS FOR MITIGATING THE CORROSIVE  
ATTACK ON THE DRYWELL SHELL OF THE OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING  
STATION (TAC 65448)

In late November 1986, GPU notified the NRC of a condition involving corrosion of the outer surface of the drywell shell. Three meetings were held between the staff and GPU on December 1, 10, and 19, 1986 to discuss this subject.

By letter dated December 19, 1986, GPU provided, for staff review, justification for interim operation for Cycle 12R. Based on our review of this information the staff concluded in our letter and Safety Evaluation dated December 29, 1986 that the original code allowables for the drywell are met should the drywell plates be locally reduced in the sand cushion area to 0.700 inch. Therefore, with a conservatively assumed corrosion rate, the drywell has adequate design margins for operation during Cycle 12. We, however, have required GPU to take the following actions:

1. GPU has committed "to continue the UT shell thickness test programs at future outages of opportunity including forced outages otherwise requiring drywell entry during the next cycle." The staff requests that GPU provide the NRC with plans for the intended inspection and, should there be no forced outages of sufficient duration prior to the mid-point of the operating cycle, perform the inspection no later than September 30, 1987. This activity is necessary to assure the corrosion rate assumed by the licensee is bounding.
2. GPU shall by June 30, 1987, provide comprehensive plans for mitigating the corrosive attack on the drywell shell and any other intended long term corrective actions it may deem necessary for staff review and approval.

As a fulfillment of our requirement and, of its commitment, GPU made a presentation on June 11, 1987 to the NRC staff of the actions taken and plans under study to resolve our concerns. Details of this presentation were documented in the meeting summary dated June 18, 1987.

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The staff has completed its review of the information presented. Our Safety Evaluation is enclosed. Based on our review, the staff concludes that the licensee has met the staff's requirements as specified in the staff's December 29, 1986 Safety Evaluation. The staff also approved the actions taken and those planned including the commitments, (1) to implement cathodic protection as a means of corrosion arrest, (2) to monitor wall thickness by UT at outages of opportunities for several years, and (3) to identify and minimize future water incursions into the sand bed.

You are requested to advise the staff when the cathodic protection system is installed and operational.

Sincerely,

/s/

John F. Stolz, Director  
Project Directorate I-4  
Division of Reactor Projects I/II

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
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Mr. P. B. Fiedler  
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

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