

From: [Cynthia Barr](#)
To: [Marlayna Doell](#)
Subject: FW: RE: Re: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) -- groundwater use
Date: Thursday, January 15, 2026 7:25:37 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Marlayna:

Below is the meeting summary for the meeting we had with Lacey Township (Lacey MUA).
Troy's information is below and Trace is his consulting engineer.

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From: Cynthia Barr
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 4:21 PM
To: Trace Dittenhofer <trace.dittenhofer@rve.com>; Troy Burton <tburton@laceymua.com>
Cc: Christopher J. Dasti <cdasti@dastilaw.com>; Amy Snyder <Amy.Snyder@nrc.gov>; Randy Fedors <Randall.Fedors@nrc.gov>; Allen Gross <Allen.Gross@nrc.gov>
Subject: RE: RE: Re: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) -- groundwater use

Hi Trace and Troy:

Thanks for meeting with us today! As promised, here is a summary of the meeting.

- Amy Snyder (Project Manager) and Cynthia Barr (Risk Assessment) provided an overview of the OCNGS license termination project and current technical issue being discussed (i.e., elimination of the groundwater pathway which could impact the level of clean-up at the site).
- A series of questions and responses were documented as follows (Trace Dittenhofer, contractor to the Lacey Township Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA), responded to the questions on behalf of the MUA; Troy Burton, Executive Director, Lacey MUA also confirmed some of the responses):
 - Are domestic wells surrounding the site used for drinking water? For example, we have data on potable domestic water wells within a 1 mi radius of the Oyster Creek site, which seems to suggest widespread use of drinking water wells near the site. The representative from MUA is unaware if there were hundreds of potable domestic water wells in the area, but the unavailability of municipal water supply may explain the presence of a number of nearby domestic water wells. Municipal Utilities Authorities or MUAs do not approve well permits. Private wells are not under the jurisdiction of the Lacey MUA. The County Board of Health is responsible for the well permit approvals and should be consulted for more information on well permitting requirements.
 - OCNGS stated that if municipal water is available (water main along Route 9), the property owner is required to tie into the municipal water system. Could you please confirm that OCNGS is required to tie into municipal water supply while many of the other residences with domestic water wells are not required to tie into the municipal water system? The Lacey MUA representative indicated that the mandatory water connection ordinance required any industrial or non-residential user to connect to municipal water supply if reasonably available. Any new development within a reasonable distance of the municipal water supply would be expected to connect. For example, a large commercial entity with a main water line within about 0.5 mile would be expected to connect.
 - Are there any exceptions to mandatory use of municipal water? Exceptions for industrial use wells can be subjective. Pre-existing residences do not have to connect and if the water main is a significant distance from the property, exceptions can be made. However, OCNGS had a 12-inch main water line at the boundary with Route 9, and the Lacey MUA informed OCNGS they had to connect to the municipal water supply.
 - Is the ordinance actively enforced? What effort is made to ensure no domestic groundwater well use and what are the fines if someone constructs a

groundwater well? Enforcement of the ordinance is a jurisdictional grey area. MUA will make every effort to require owners to make connections if required. However, MUA does not drive around to make sure that drilled wells are compliant with local and state requirements and does not have authority over well permitting. If a homeowner had their own drilling equipment, they could theoretically drill a well on their property. However, NJ DEP has strict requirements for master driller licenses who would not risk losing their licenses by drilling a well without a permit.

- What is the expected longevity of the restrictions. For example, is it reasonable to assume that the restrictions will be in place for the next 100 years? The MUA representative stated that they did not foresee there ever being a relaxation of the requirements on the use of municipal water, if available. NJ DEP prefers connections to municipal water.
- What is the objective of the local ordinance (to protect groundwater resource from use)? The purpose of the ordinance is to protect drinking water aquifers. Groundwater well penetrations present a risk for contamination of drinking water. NJ DEP has an interest in limiting the number of drinking water wells that have the potential for degrading water quality. Private wells are not subject to same requirements as public water wells with respect to monitoring for groundwater quality.
- Does the local or state ordinance (NJAC 7:10-12.4) prohibit the use of groundwater wells for any reason. OCNGS has an industrial well and states that a well could potentially be used for irrigation. So are the restrictions just on drinking water use. For example, can wells be used for irrigation, industrial uses such as fire water, etc.? The state and local ordinance do not entirely prohibit drinking water wells. A drinking water well could be permitted upon application. Irrigation wells are treated entirely different and have their own ordinances. Irrigation wells are oftentimes shallower because water quality is not as big of an issue. Typically, owners are discouraged from using potable water for irrigation as it consumes higher quality water that could be used for drinking water. To the knowledge of the MUA representatives, the irrigation ordinances do not require use of municipal water supply for irrigation.
- What are the requirements for sealing of wells. It appears from (§ 329-2, Subsections E (4)) of the ordinance that the OCNGS would not be required to seal their drinking water well given their block and lot number. There were certain block and lots in Lacey Township that had subsurface contamination that were listed in the ordinance. In fact, degradation of groundwater quality was a large impetus for construction of the municipal water system. After the OCNGS drinking

water well became inactive with connection to the municipal water supply, the OCNGS drinking water well would be required by NJ DEP to be sealed to reduce the risk of groundwater contamination. NJ DEP would eventually conduct a compliance inspection, and then OCNGS would be required to seal their drinking water well despite the requirement in the Lacey Township ordinance for specific block and lot numbers.

- NJAC 7:10-12.4 OCNGS cited the New Jersey Administrative Code to provide further evidence that the NJDEP would deny a well permit where municipal water is available. OCNGS also indicated that exceptions to allow well permits for drinking water are rare. The representative from MUA generally agreed with OCNGS's characterization of the state code.
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/new-jersey/N-J-A-C-7-10-12-4>
- Do you know who can I talk to about zoning of the OCNGS site and potential changes to zoning due to the demand for housing in the area? The MUA representative indicated that NRC should reach out to township administrator and future planner. The township could petition the planning group for a change in zoning due to residential housing demand.

Let us know if you have any edits or clarifications. I will likely cite details of the conversation as a meeting with Lacey Township MUA in our safety evaluation. We will keep you posted on progress with the OCNGS License Termination Plan approval.

Thanks, again, for your time and helpful input to the process!

Best regards,
Cynthia

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