

November 22, 1999

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

SUBJECT: NRC-EVALUATED EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE - INSPECTION
REPORT NO. 50-219/99-06

Dear Mr. Roche:

The enclosed report documents an inspection for public health and safety, led by Mr. D. Silk at Forked River, New Jersey. The inspection evaluated the performance of your emergency response organization (ERO) during the October 5, 1999, Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station full-participation exercise. The inspectors discussed the findings of this inspection with your staff on October 8, 1999.

Based on the results of this inspection, it was determined that the overall performance of the ERO demonstrated, with reasonable assurance, that onsite emergency plans are adequate and that your organization is capable of implementing them. Simulated events for this scenario were diagnosed accurately, emergency declarations were timely and accurate, offsite agencies were notified in a timely manner and protective action recommendations were appropriate.

However, one exercise weakness was identified. Due to a communications problem in the technical support center, important information was not relayed to a key decision maker. As a result, mitigation actions to isolate a simulated loss of coolant accident were delayed for approximately two hours. This delay was an undesired response to the simulated event. Corrective actions to address this weakness appear to have been implemented promptly by your staff.

Your critique process was well implemented. Post-exercise facility debriefs were candid. At the formal critique, your staff identified a number of issues, in addition to those identified by the NRC. The most significant issues identified were prioritized for prompt corrective action. Overall, the critique was balanced with positive and negative findings and was appropriately self-critical.

No violations of NRC requirement were identified. No response to this letter is required. The effectiveness of your corrective actions for the exercise weakness are subject to a future inspection.

PDR ADock

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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.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
BRIAN E. HOLIAN FOR

Wayne D. Lanning, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-219

Enclosure: Inspection Report No. 50-219/99-06

cc w/encl:

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G. Busch, Manager, Nuclear Safety and Licensing
State of New Jersey

L. Canton, Regional Director, FEMA Region II

Mr. Michael B. Roche

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