

EXCERPT FROM
MINUTES OF 226TH ACRS MEETING
FEBRUARY 8-10, 1979

V. Meeting With Members of the NRC Staff on Recent Operating Experience Licensing Activities, and Future Agenda (Open to Public)

[Note: John C. McKinley was the Designated Federal Employee for this portion of the meeting.]

A. Oyster Creek: Short Period Trip

E. Jordan, NRC Staff, discussed a short period trip that occurred at Oyster Creek on December 14, 1978 (see Appendix XXII). He said that it occurred during rod withdrawal, approximately 9 1/4 hours after the reactor had been scrammed from full power, at which time there was essentially a peak xenon concentration in the core. He pointed out that similar events have occurred at other plants, and seemed to be caused by operator unfamiliarity with achieving criticality under peak xenon conditions. Most rod withdrawal actions are taken either immediately after scram, before the xenon has built up, or considerably later, after the xenon has decayed. Inspection and Enforcement has forwarded a circular to licensees to review procedures for achieving criticality under peak xenon conditions.

E. Jordan said that in this case, the sequence of rod withdrawal was satisfactory, but the rate of rod withdrawal was too fast. Near the approach of criticality, the rods should be withdrawn one notch at a time. He noted that the NRC Staff is concerned that boiling water reactors are continuing to have these short-period trips.

Mr. Plesset noted his concern regarding a history of spills at Oyster Creek. He suggested that the Oyster Creek Subcommittee meet with the Licensee to discuss what the Licensee is doing to avoid repetition of such occurrences.

It was pointed out that oversight of the operation of licensed plants is an NRC Staff function, and that the Committee should become involved only if it is dissatisfied with Staff performance.

It was the Committee consensus that since Oyster Creek is being reviewed as part of the NRC Staff's systematic evaluation program, it would be appropriate to defer this matter until later in this review.

C/6

Oyster
Creek