



State of New Jersey

James E. McGreevey
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Environmental Safety and Health
Radiation Protection and Release Prevention Element
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Bradley M. Campbell
Commissioner

July 8, 2003

Mr. Hub Miller
Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Rd.
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Dear Mr. Miller:

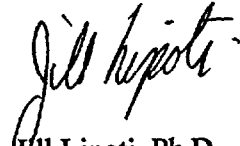
By letter dated May 30, 2003, AmerGen requested relief from the licensed operator requalification requirements of 10 CFR 50.59 (c)(1). AmerGen submitted a second letter, dated June 23, 2003, containing supplemental information about modifications to the training program. The exemption request became necessary as a result of the strike by operators represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1289. Although we do not object to the exemption request, we remain concerned with the impact of a long term job action's effect on the operating crews at Oyster Creek.

I am requesting that the NRC perform a special inspection of this modified operator requalification training program at an appropriate time in the Fall of 2003. This inspection would be an interim measure, beyond the scope of the Reactor Oversight Program, to ensure that operators are receiving timely and effective, on-going training in anticipation of fulfilling the regulatory requirements that are to be met by December 31, 2003. This ongoing training is critical from our standpoint because the existing crews are newly formed, and have had little or no training during the strike.

I would suggest that the inspection focus on Inspection Objectives 1 through 4 on page 2 of NRC Inspection Procedure 71111.11. However, rather than relying on the resource allocation of 3 hours per quarter of the resident inspector's time, we would like to see a region-based inspector who looks at performance of all four operating crews.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me at 609-984-5520.

Regards,



Jill Lipoti, Ph.D.
Assistant Director

C: Kent Tosch, NJ DEP
Dennis Zannoni, NJ DEP
Peter Tam, NRC Headquarters
Robert Bores, Ph. D., NRC Region 1
Dave Slear, AmerGen