

November 16, 2005

Mr. Ed Frydendahl
23 Ambassador Drive
Manchester, NJ 08759

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTION REGARDING THE USE OF THERMO-LAG
INSULATION AT THE OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Dear Mr. Frydendahl:

During the public exit meeting held on October 20, 2005, by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) you asked the following question: "The Thermo-Lag fire barriers at Oyster Creek were found to be combustible, they remain unsafely in the plant. When, if ever, are they to be replaced?"

I have discussed this issue with our Fire Protection Section and completed the search of our ADAMS document system. I have identified four documents that should supply the necessary information to answer your question. Enclosed are the document titles, accession numbers and dates to assist you in viewing or printing the documents at your discretion. The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible from the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov.

During the 1992 to 1994 time frame, the NRC staff issued Generic Letter (GL) 92-08, "Thermo-Lag 330-1 Fire Barriers". This document is available on the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/gen-letters/1992/gl92008.html>. The Agency requested that the licensees confirm: (1) that the Thermo-Lag 330-1 barrier systems have been qualified by representative fire endurance tests, (2) that the ampacity derating factors have been derived by valid tests, and (3) that these qualified barriers have been installed with appropriate procedures and quality controls to ensure that they comply with the NRC's requirements. Subsequent requests for additional information requested licensees to submit plans and schedules for resolving the Thermo-Lag issue. On May 22, 1998, the NRC issued an order (Adams accession number ML04990167) that Oyster Creek (GPU Nuclear) complete the final implementation of Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barrier corrective actions. On October 1, 1998, the NRC issued a letter approving the licensee's schedule for completion of the Thermo-Lag actions (Adams Legacy Library accession number 9810060030). On January 30, 2001, Oyster Creek (AmerGen/Exelon) informed the staff in docketed correspondence (Adams accession number ML10370267) that modifications to correct Thermo-Lag deficiencies were completed during refueling outage (18R). The associated documentation is being retained by the licensee for NRC audit or inspection.

E. Frydendahl

-2-

This information should be sufficient to answer your question. I appreciate your interest in the NRC's current process for evaluating AmerGen's application for license renewal. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me by regular mail at 11555 Rockville Pike, Mail Stop O-11F1, Rockville, Maryland 20852 or via e-mail at dja1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Donnie J. Ashley, Project Manager
License Renewal Branch A
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-219

cc: See next page

E. Frydendahl

-2-

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Sincerely,

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Donnie J. Ashley, Project Manager
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cc: See next page

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Adams Accession No.: **ML053200432**

Document name: E:\Filenet\ML053200432.wpd

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DATE	11/10/05	11/15/05	11/16/05

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DISTRIBUTION: Letter to E. Frydendahl, re: Response to question concerning use of Thermo-Lag Insulation at Oyster Creek, Dated: November 16, 2005

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