

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 02/21/06

EDO CONTROL: G20060110

DOC DT: 01/27/06

FINAL REPLY:

Representative Jim Saxton

TO:

Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 06-0055

Reyes, EDO

DESC:

ROUTING:

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station -
Ultrasonic Testing

Reyes
Virgilio
Kane
Silber
Dean
Cyr/Burns
Collins, RI
Schmidt, OCA
Shoop, OEDO

DATE: 02/03/06

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Dyer

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Coordinate with Region I. Inform Rep. Saxton that his letter and response will be added to the Oyster Creek docket and serviced on the parties.

OEDO POC: Undine Shoop

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Feb 02, 2006 17:18

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-06-0055
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

LOGGING DATE: 01/31/2006

AUTHOR: CHRM Jim Saxton
AFFILIATION: CONG
ADDRESSEE: CHRM Nils Diaz
SUBJECT: Oyster Creek nuclearing generating station

ACTION: Signature of EDO
DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 01/27/2006

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: Incoming letter and response will be added to the Oyster Creek Docket and served on the parties

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 02/21/2006

DATE SIGNED:

TON
NEW JERSEY
HOUSE.GOV/SAXTON
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
FISHERIES AND OCEANS
NATIONAL PARKS



ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
TERRORISM, UNCONVENTIONAL
THREATS AND CAPABILITIES
CHAIRMAN
PROJECTION FORCES
MILITARY PERSONNEL

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2006

8348
1-31-06
SEA

CHAIRMAN REC'D
06 JAN 31 AM 8:31

Dr. Nils J. Diaz, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Dr. Diaz:

I write to you today regarding the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station in Forked River, New Jersey.

It has come to my attention that Ultrasonic Testing is conducted on the Upper Region vessel containment walls of the main reactor every two years as the result of an agreement reached between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the plant's original owner, GPU Energy. As I understand it, the NRC times these analyses to take place in conjunction with plant refueling.

It has also come to my attention, however, that Ultrasonic Testing on the Lower Region has not taken place in nearly a decade. While I strongly support the NRC's commitment to testing the Upper Region every two years, I am gravely concerned about the robustness of the container walls in the Lower Region.

I strongly urge the NRC, as it considers the license renewal application of the nation's oldest operating nuclear power plant, to conduct an Ultrasonic Test of the lower region and to take these findings into consideration before issuing a final decision. Additionally, I request a summary of the most recent findings be made available to the public. The plant is scheduled to go down for refueling in 2006, I am requesting the Lower Region Ultrasonic Tests be conducted at this time.

Past correspondence regarding the security of Oyster Creek has prompted the NRC to respond that security is an ongoing issue that is not considered during the license renewal process. However, conducting routine analysis on the thickness of vessel containment walls at nuclear power plants is an operational safety issue directly related to the relicensure process.

Thank you for your continued attention to this critical matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Jim Saxton
Member of Congress

JS/jaz