



UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION I  
475 ALLENDALE ROAD  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415

September 13, 2007

Mr. David Lochbaum  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
1707 H Street, NW, Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

I am responding to your letter of July 18, 2007, which raised concerns related to the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station plant scram that occurred on July 17, 2007. Your concerns related to whether operator actions were appropriate including whether the plant should have scrambled and whether the consequences of the event were expected (e.g., main steam isolation valve closure and containment spray). Although you did not request a written response, we are providing this response to emphasize the importance we place on event response.

Event response is a key priority for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC has various processes in place to ensure effective event response. For this event, the resident inspectors promptly responded to the control room and provided timely communication of plant status to NRC regional management. Additional inspection was considered in accordance with the criteria outlined in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0309, Reactive Inspection Decision Basis for Reactors (ML070860410). Based on review of the event conditional risk, detailed information gathered through prompt onsite inspection, and consultation with regional specialist inspectors, we determined that a special team inspection was not warranted. Accordingly, we initiated a baseline event follow-up inspection to more fully assess plant equipment and operator response.

Throughout the event, there was frequent communication between the resident inspectors, NRC regional management, and NRC headquarters staff to assess licensee performance and plant conditions. Specialist inspection support to address various technical questions and issues was provided, where needed. Additionally, a Preliminary Notification of Event or Unusual Occurrence (PN) (PNO-I-07-006) was issued to communicate the event to external stakeholders. Close communications have continued between NRC regional management and the inspection staff throughout our follow-up inspection. We will include our conclusions on this matter in our next periodic resident inspection report, which will be issued no later than November 15, 2007.

We expect our inspection to determine the significance and impact of licensee performance during this event, and we will forward a copy of the resident inspection report to you once it is issued. Our inspection scope includes independent verification that event-related performance deficiencies, if any occurred, are identified and addressed through the licensee's formal corrective action program. We expect this inspection to address your questions.

Mr. D. Lochbaum

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I trust that this letter has been responsive to your concern. If you have any further questions or concerns in this matter, please contact Ronald Bellamy at 610-337-5200.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

David C. Lew, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-219  
License No. DPR-16

I trust that this letter has been responsive to your concern. If you have any further questions or concerns in this matter, please contact Ronald Bellamy at 610-337-5200.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

David C. Lew, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

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License No. DPR-16

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