



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007

NOV 20 1979

Daniel R. Muller
Acting Director
Division of Safety and Environmental Analysis
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Muller:

I am writing you to enlist the participation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and in particular Dr. Michael Masnik of your staff, in a coordinated effort to evaluate the environmental impacts of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating facility, which is owned and operated by Jersey Central Power and Light Company (JCP&L).

As you are aware, JCP&L has conducted ecological studies during the last three years to collect data with which the appropriate federal and state agencies could assess the environmental impact of this facility. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in accordance with its authority under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and with respect to the requirements of Sections 316(a) and 316(b) of the Act, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, pursuant to its National Environmental Policy Act and other licensing responsibilities, have both played active roles in directing the efforts of JCP&L.

During this period, our respective staffs have cooperated on an informal basis. I am now proposing that a more structured working relationship in the form of an interagency work group be established. The Oyster Creek Interagency Work Group would be composed of members from all relevant federal and state agencies, and would be coordinated by EPA. Participation in this effort is being requested not only of your office, but of the State of New Jersey, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service as well. The work group would be responsible for evaluating the Section 316 submittals (thermal discharge and cooling water intake considerations) and other relevant data with respect to the impact of the Oyster Creek facility on the aquatic environment.

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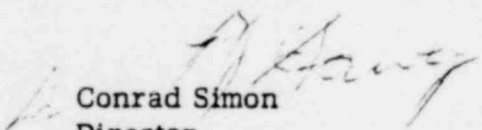
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The pooling of resources resulting from the formation of such a work group would serve all involved parties by minimizing duplication of effort, and more importantly, by enabling the most environmentally sound decisions to be reached. The success of our cooperative efforts over the last four years on the Hudson River Power Case have been most encouraging in this regard. Dr. Masnik's familiarity with the Oyster Creek program, and particularly with the shipworm information, would significantly contribute to the successful operation of the work group.

Please contact Dr. Harry L. Allen, Chief of the Water Resources Section, at the above address, with your decision or should you have any questions regarding this matter.

I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective agencies.

Sincerely yours,


Conrad Simon
Director
Water Division

cc: Steve Lubow
New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection

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