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Jersey Central Power & Light Company
Madison Avenue at Punch Bowl Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960
(201) 455-8200

October 31, 1979

Mr. Boyce H. Grier, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Mr. Grier:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket No. 50-219
IE Bulletin No. 79-24

The purpose of this letter is to respond to IE Bulletin No. 79-24 which requests that all licensees review their plants to determine that adequate protective measures have been taken to assure that safety-related process, instrument, and sampling lines do not freeze during extremely cold weather. The actions that have been taken to verify that such lines at the Oyster Creek Station are adequately protected against the possibility of freeze-up are given below:

- (1) A review of the operating history of the safety-related systems has been completed in order to identify any such incidents and to ensure that corrective measures were completed where deemed necessary. The results of this investigation revealed that only one such incident has occurred. The incident involved the stack gas sampling system (RO No. 50-219/76-31/1-T). It was determined that the system became inoperable as a result of a failure of the system's heat tracing. Corrective measures involved the replacement of the piping heat tracing and insulation.
- (2) Operations and support personnel were canvassed and requested to identify any incidents when a safety-related system may have performed in an erratic manner due to extremely cold ambient conditions. No incidents other than the aforementioned were identified.
- (3) A program is being implemented whereby functional checks will be performed, annually, on safety-related system heat tracing prior to the onset of freezing conditions.

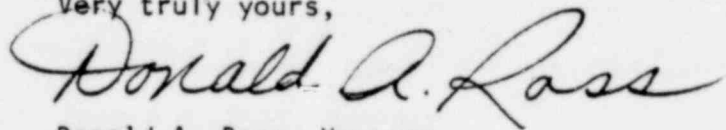
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Based on the reliable performance of the safety-related systems with regard to thermal protection, and further supported by the aforementioned precautionary measures, the probability of a safety system failure via the subject mode is considered to be minimal.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald A. Ross". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Donald A. Ross, Manager
Generating Stations-Nuclear

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