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Jersey Central Power & Light Company
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October 12, 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. 79-23

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the directives set forth in IE Bulletin No. 79-23 which has as its concern the potential failure of emergency diesel generator field exciter transformers. Our responses to the specific actions required by the subject bulletin are given below.

Item 1:

Determine whether or not connections have been made between low KVA rated transformers and high KVA rated EDGs without adequate limitations on the flow of circulating currents. If applicable, provide a description of the corrective action being taken to address this problem.

Response:

An inspection was performed on the emergency diesel generators (EDGs) at the Oyster Creek Station to determine whether or not a connection exists between the low KVA rated control transformers (CPTs) and the high KVA rated EDGs without adequate limitations on the flow of circulating currents. This inspection and a review of the history of the subject system revealed that such connections did at one time exist via common grounds. The connections were removed, however, subsequent to an incident which occurred on June 21, 1973, when a voltage surge caused by a nearby lightning storm resulted in the failure of the three (3) primary fuses of the 45 KVA CPT for EDG #2. As a result of the investigation of this incident, the grounds at the neutrals of the primary windings of the CPTs were lifted.

Item 2:

Provide a schedule for the completion of a sustained full-load operation test of the EDGs for a duration of not less than 24 hours, or provide

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the results of the similar long duration, full-load test which has already been completed on the EDGs installed at your facility. The test should demonstrate full-load carrying capability for an interval of not less than 24 hours, of which 22 hours should be at a load equivalent to the continuous rating of the diesel generator and 2 hours at a load equivalent to the 2-hour rating of the diesel generator. The test should also verify that voltage and frequency requirements are maintained and that the cooling system functions within design limits.

Response:

A sustained full-load operation test of the EDGs will be completed no later than the end of the next refueling outage, which is now scheduled to begin on January 4, 1980. The test will demonstrate full-load carrying capability for an interval of not less than 24 hours, of which 22 hours will be at a load equivalent to the continuous rating of the diesel generator, and 2 hours at a load equivalent to the 2-hour rating of the diesel generator.

In addition, the test will verify that the requirements for voltage and frequency are maintained, and that the cooling system performs within the designed limits.

Very truly yours,



Donald A. Ross, Manager
Generating Stations-Nuclear

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cc: United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Division of Reactor Operations Inspection
Washington, DC 20555

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