

# Jersey Central Power & Light Company

MADISON AVENUE AT PUNCH BOWL ROAD • MORRISTOWN, N. J. 07960 • 539-6111

February 27, 1973

Mr. A. Giambusso  
Deputy Director for Reactor Projects  
Directorate of Licensing  
United States Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20545



Dear Mr. Giambusso:

Subject: Oyster Creek Station  
Docket No. 50-219  
Failure of Stack Gas Monitoring System

This event is considered to be an abnormal occurrence, as defined in the Technical Specifications, Paragraph 1.15.B. Notification of this event, as required by the Technical Specifications, Paragraph 6.6.B, was made to the AEC Region I, Directorate of Regulatory Operations, on February 12, 1973.

At the beginning of the day shift on February 12, it was recognized that low sample flow existed in the stack monitor system. The filters were inspected and found not to be the cause of the low flow. Warm air was blown back through the sample line but no improvement in sample flow was realized. At 11:10 a.m., an orderly shut down of the plant was initiated when it was determined the stack gas monitoring system was no longer functioning properly. Increased surveillance of the continuous off-gas monitor was used to infer stack release rates during the period.

Upon investigation, the cause of the monitor flow problem was determined to be moisture freezing in the sample line at the 262 foot elevation where the line runs external to the stack. The line was thawed out and heat traced to prevent future freezing. At 3:40 p.m., sample flow was reestablished and the stack monitor was determined to be functioning properly. The plant shutdown in progress was then terminated.

Upon further investigation into this occurrence by the Plant Operations Review Committee, it was recognized that on February 11 the stack gas filter had been changed due to noting a low sample flow rate. While the filter was being changed, the sample line was blown out with air. The monitor flow returned to normal; however, later that day the flow rate again decreased and technicians were called in to check out the monitoring system. At this time, for a period of approximately three hours, the gaseous stack releases were not being properly monitored.

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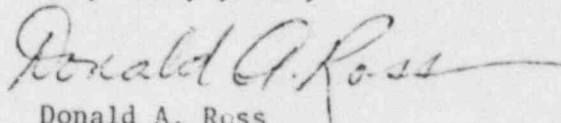
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The safety significance attached to this event is associated with the temporary loss of gaseous effluent monitoring at the stack. However, during the time the stack gas sampling flow was reduced, the off-gas monitor continued to provide continuous, related gaseous release monitoring. At no time did the activity indicated by these monitors increase above what they were reading prior to the stack gas sample flow problem. Samples of off gas analyzed during this period showed the stack release rate to be  $8 \times 10^4$   $\mu$ ci/sec. The  $I^{131}$  concentration, as determined by analysis of the charcoal cartridges in service during this period, showed an average release rate of .2  $\mu$ ci/sec.

To prevent a recurrence of this event, the external portion of the sample line has been insulated and heat traced. In addition, procedure 501, which covers the action required when receiving the stack gas sample system low flow alarm, will be expanded to clarify the operator action to be taken. This change will then be reviewed with all licensed personnel.

Very truly yours,



Donald A. Ross  
Manager, Nuclear Generating Stations

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Enclosures (40)

cc: Mr. J. P. O'Reilly, Director  
Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Region 1