

Jersey Central Power & Light Company

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

April 7, 1972

Dr. Peter A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545



Dear Dr. Morris:

Subject: Oyster Creek Station
Docket No. 50-219
Diesel Fire Pump Starting Failure

The purpose of this letter is to report to you the failure of Diesel Fire Pump 1-2 to start during a surveillance test on March 21, 1972.

This surveillance test consists of starting each pump from the control room and again by lowering the fire pump discharge header pressure. The pump started on the signal from the control room but did not start on the drop in header pressure. The operator in attendance observed that the diesel cranked very slowly. Each fire pump is started by a starting motor driven electrically by a 24-volt DC battery. Each pump is equipped with two, 24-volt DC batteries either of which may be used for starting. Each battery is composed of two heavy-duty 12-volt batteries connected in series. The Shift Foreman on duty went to the fire pump location and by selecting the alternate battery for 1-2 pump, started the diesel although it cranked very slowly. It was determined later that each of the batteries serving the failed pump has one bad cell. The 12-volt batteries which had the bad cell were replaced with new batteries.

In the future, closer attention will be given to possible battery deterioration.

We are enclosing twenty-five copies of this report.

Very truly yours,

Ivan R. Finfrock, Jr.
Ivan R. Finfrock, Jr.

Manager, Nuclear Generating Stations

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Enclosures

cc: Mr. J. P. O'Reilly, Director
Division of Compliance, Region I

50-219 incident
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