



Jersey Central Power & Light Company

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

December 22, 1971

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
Radwaste Outside Tank Activity

The purpose of this letter is to report to you recent difficulties we have experienced in maintaining the total radioactivity in the outside radwaste tanks at Oyster Creek below 0.7 curies.

Beginning on November 14, 1971, continuing thereafter on November 17, 23, and 29 through December 17, 1971; the outside tank activity exceeded 0.7 curies. On the first three instances the tanks were recycled thereby reducing the outside tank activity to less than 0.7 curies. The instance beginning November 29 involved a series of difficulties with the radwaste equipment, which, despite the best efforts of the plant staff, prevented the continuous recycling of water. With continued attention to these immediate equipment difficulties, the outside tank activity has been reduced below 0.7 curies since December 17, 1971.

The underlying cause behind these events was the increased waste water volume and its associated activity resulting from the recent plant outage. In addition, plugging of the waste concentrator and the subsequent rapid depletion of the radwaste demineralizer, did not permit normal processing to provide adequate inside tank storage capacity. These malfunctions caused a backlog in radwaste inventory which resulted in the necessity to divert water to the outside waste surge tank.

Once it becomes necessary to use the 100,000-gallon waste surge tank it is very difficult to remain below the existing Technical Specification limit of 0.7 curies.



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On the first three occasions, the outside storage tank water was recycled into radwaste for additional processing. On the last occasion, difficulties described above prevented continuous recycling. However, the following remedial actions were taken to reduce the outside tank activity:

1. Water was released from the outside tanks in accordance with provisions in the Technical Specifications.
2. Waste water was trucked off-site by a licensed carrier.
3. Immediate repair of the plugged waste concentrator was instituted.
4. Priority was given to the regeneration of the radwaste demineralizer.
5. A conductivity cell was installed in the waste concentrator output to minimize the possibility of prematurely depleting the radwaste demineralizer.

The present specification on liquid storage assumes that a minimum amount of liquid waste would require storage since discharges could be made continuously up to the limits of 10CFR20. However, the desire to maintain radioactive discharges to the environment as low as practicable results in the necessity to retain the waste on site to permit systematic processing by filtration, demineralization, and concentration. A change request is currently being submitted for your review that will appropriately revise the present Technical Specification on liquid storage to permit additional hold up for processing. In addition, more spare parts are being acquired for the waste concentrator and consideration is being given to the installation of a second waste concentrator and demineralizer as a part of our plans for upgrading the radwaste treatment facility.

We are enclosing twenty-five copies of this report.

Very truly yours,

Ivan R. Finckel, Jr.

Ivan R. Finckel, Jr.
Manager, Nuclear Generating Stations

IRF/pk

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