

# Jersey Central Power & Light Company

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

December 23, 1970

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

Dear Dr. Morris:

Subject: Surveillance Test Failure of Vacuum  
Breaker Block Valves  
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (DPR-16)  
Docket 50-219

The purpose of this letter is to report the failure of both absorption chamber (Torus) to reactor building vacuum breaker block valves to operate during a surveillance test on December 18, 1970.

The Torus to reactor building vacuum breaker, air-operated, butterfly-type, block valves were being tested as part of the routine surveillance program for this equipment. When a pressure of 0.4 psig was applied to the reactor building side of the differential pressure switch, neither valve opened as required. With immediate manual assistance to the valve operators, each valve operated. The valves were then cycled, and it was noted that operating linkages appeared to be out of adjustment causing the valves to drive hard against their seats. When called upon to open, the valves did not break away from the seats. The linkages were adjusted and the valves, when stroked, exhibited smoother performance. However, one valve still had a tendency to stick before opening. The disc thrust plates for both valves were checked and rust was detected on the doubtful valve thrust plate. After cleaning and reassembling the thrust plate, the valves were stroked and they operated properly. In order to reestablish confidence in these valves, it was decided to continue testing on a daily basis for several days.

During test on December 19, 1970, these valves again failed to open and manual assistance was required. Once opened, they continued to operate satisfactorily. When the valves were left in the closed

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position for approximately five minutes, it was noted that the linkage assembly continued to exert force on the disc and drive it hard against the seat. An adjustment was made to the regulator which positions the valve operator so that when traveling in the closed direction, the linkage would not tend to drive beyond the closed position. Subsequent testing, including testing after a waiting period of fifteen minutes, did not result in any failure. On December 20, 21, and 22, the test program continued satisfactorily; and with acceptable performance, the test interval will be gradually increased to the normal monthly cycle.

The subject matter of this report has been discussed with our Regional Compliance Office.

Very truly yours,

*Ivan R. Finfrock, Jr.*

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

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cc: Mr. R. W. Kirkman  
Division of Compliance