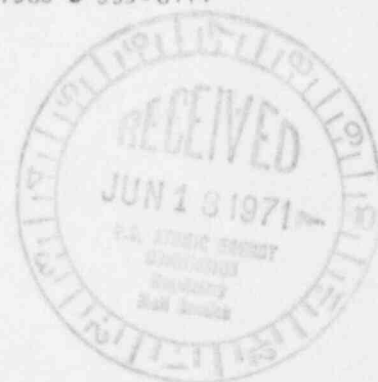


Jersey Central Power & Light Company

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

June 15, 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 50-219
Collapse of the Package Boiler Flue

The purpose of this letter is to report, as a matter of interest, the known details on the collapse of the package boiler flue. The 30-inch transite flue was erected inside the plant's ventilation stack. It penetrated the ventilation stack at approximately elevation 36 feet and ran inside the stack to within 10 inches of the top. Its purpose was to carry off the combustion gases from the package boiler. It was supported by stainless steel metal bands and cables, which were anchored into the main stack. The events which led up to the discovery of the collapse and the subsequent actions taken are described below.

At elevation 264 feet there is an isokinetic probe installed in the plant ventilation stack for the purpose of sampling all building ventilating air and also the air ejector off gases after hold up. A sample is drawn through the probe by a sample pump located in the package boiler house. This sample is filtered for particulates and halogens, then passes by two scintillation detectors before returning to the stack. In February of 1971 there were slight traces of carbon found on the stack sample system particulate filters. Filter changing is done on a routine basis unless a low flow alarm indicates the filter is plugging at which time the filter is changed earlier than usual. The carbon deposits were not seen every time a filter was changed. It was thought at this time that the boiler flue could possibly have a crack in it below the 264-foot elevation; and with the boiler firing at a much higher rate due to the winter heating load and the use of the waste concentrator, it may have caused occasional periods of positive pressure resulting in combustion products entering the isokinetic probe.

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Dr. Peter A. Morris
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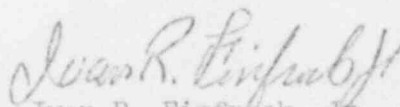
The problem became more severe when on April 22, 1971 it became necessary to replace a plugged filter that had been in service for only one day. The replacement filter was removed and inspected after one hour and was found to be coated with a heavy deposit of carbon. The package boiler was then shut down, and it was decided to enter the main stack to investigate the source of leakage. The package boiler flue was found to be almost completely collapsed.

The collapse of the flue has resulted in minor damage to the supporting structure of the stack gas probe as the result of falling material striking the supporting beam and trolley used to hold the isokinetic probe in position. The probe was observed to be bent and disconnected from the supporting structure. However, as evidenced by the stack gas recording charts, the isokinetic probe is still performing its intended function since the readings are found to compare favorably with prior data. New filters had been placed in service following the package boiler shutdown on April 22, 1971. On April 26, 1971 the particulate and halogen filters were removed and counted following routine plant counting procedures, and evaluated with previous collection data for comparison purposes. No discrepancies were observed and it was concluded that no degradation of the efficiency of the stack gas sample system has occurred. At the next outage of suitable duration, the isokinetic probe will be examined and resupported or repaired as required.

Action was taken immediately to construct a temporary flue for the package boiler, outside of the ventilation stack, in order to return the boiler and the waste concentrator to service as soon as possible. The new flue was installed and the boiler returned to service on April 26, 1971.

Twenty-five copies of this report are attached.

Very truly yours,



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

IRF/pk

cc: Mr. R. W. Kirkman, Regional Director
Division of Compliance