

Jersey Central Power & Light Company

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

May 17, 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
Isolation Condenser System
Time Delay Relay Failure

The purpose of this letter is to report to you, as a matter of interest, the failure of a time delay relay that was discovered during a recent surveillance test of the circuitry that would isolate one of the two redundant Isolation Condenser Systems at our Oyster Creek Station in the event of a condensate line pipe break in this system. The time delay relay that failed is a part of two redundant circuits for each of the Isolation Condenser Systems; and during this test, it was observed that the redundant circuit in the system with the failed relay functioned satisfactorily. Thus, single failure criteria was met. At the same time, both of the two redundant similar circuits for the other Isolation Condenser System were satisfactorily tested. These circuits have a five-second time delay in order to prevent closure of Isolation Condenser System valves due to an initial flow surge when a system is automatically placed in service.

Following the test, the time delay portion of the relay was removed and disassembled for inspection. It was discovered that a small piece of insulation had burned, probably due to excessive heat from a resistor in series with the relay coil, and dropped off. This piece of insulation lodged itself in such a position that the bellows actuator

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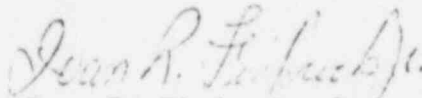
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could not expand and allow the relay to function after the preset time delay had expired. The failed time delay was replaced with a similar relay of a different manufacturer and tested satisfactorily. Additional replacement relays have been ordered and will be installed upon their arrival at the station.

Twenty-five copies of this report are attached.

Very truly yours,



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

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Attachments