Jersey Central Power & Light Company

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MEMBER OF THE General Electric Power Companies System Public Utilities Corporation

April 2, 1974

Mr. A. Giambusso
Deputy Director for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Giambusso:

Subject: Oyster Creek Station
Docket No. 50-219
Hydraulic Shock and Sway Arrestor Inspection -
January 1974

The purpose of this letter is to forward to you supplementary information regarding the seals of five "failed" hydraulic shock and sway arrestors (snubbers) found in the drywell during the plant shutdown which began on January 12, 1974. The initial report on the January inspection of the snubbers in the drywell was forwarded by letter dated February 19, 1974.

A visual inspection of the seals removed from the five failed snubbers indicated that several types of material were used in each unit. To determine which of the materials had failed, the seals were sent to the GPU System Laboratory for material identification analyses using infrared scans and microscopic examinations. The results of the material analysis can be summarized as follows:

1. Only three seals in each snubber were of the recommended polyethylene-propylene (PEP) material.

2. None of the PEP seals showed any sign of failure.

3. Two types of polyurethane were used in the failed snubbers. These were the millable gum and the cast polyurethane.

4. One fiber seal was also discovered in two of the snubbers. Both of these units were of an old series which could not be rebuilt completely. The fiber seals had probably never been changed out at the time the snubbers were rebuilt or they were cut from new unidentified gasket material.

5. One other seal used in the two old series snubbers could not be identified. The material is believed to be teflon.

6. The seals which, because of their physical characteristics, had visually appeared to be failed before the laboratory analysis are now identified to be millable gum polyurethane.

We believe the results of the laboratory analyses provide further evidence that ethylene-propylene is the material best suited for replacement seals in the hydraulic snubbers located in the drywell and in the reactor building.

Enclosed are forty copies of this submittal.

Very truly yours,

Donald A. Ross

Donald A. Ross
Manager, Nuclear Generating Stations

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Enclosures

cc: Mr. J. P. O'Reilly, Director
Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Region I