

# Jersey Central Power & Light Company

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

June 5, 1973

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  
Drywell Head Manhole Cover

The purpose of this letter is to report a failure of the drywell head manhole cover double gasket seal to meet acceptable leakage as specified in Technical Specifications 4.5.F.1.D. This event is considered to be an abnormal occurrence as defined in the Technical Specifications, Paragraph 1.15.E. Notification of this event as required by the Technical Specifications, Paragraph 6.6.B, was made to AEC Region I, Directorate of Regulatory Operations, on May 27, 1973.

While attempting to pressurize the double gasket seal on the drywell head manhole cover, significant pressure decay was observed between the gaskets. A check of the manhole cover plate with leak teck showed that there was a significant amount of leakage through the outer gasket. No attempt was made to determine whether the inside gasket was leak tight. The allowable leakage for a penetration is 10% of  $L_t(20)$  or 19.9 SCFH.

Visual inspection of the gaskets showed that the outer gasket was brittle and would crack when pulled, but the inner gasket was less brittle and still had some resilience left when it was pulled.

Both gaskets on the manhole cover were replaced.

The test showed the outer gasket was leaking and the visual inspection indicated that the inner gasket was sound and might have been leak tight. (Note this point was not verified by any measurement.) If the inner gasket was tight, there is no particular safety significance except the lack of a redundant gasket seal.

The failure of both gaskets could result in primary containment leakage (into secondary containment) in excess of technical specification

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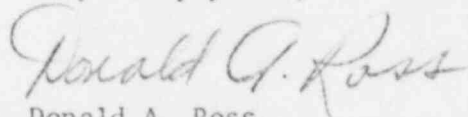
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limits and in excess of the leakage assumed for off-site dose calculations described in the basis for Technical Specification 4.5. However, there is a possibility that the inside gasket was tight and that primary containment leakage would be less than allowable.

To prevent recurrence of this type failure, a schedule for gasket replacement needs to be developed. This particular gasket is estimated to have been in service 4 or 5 years. In the future, it will be replaced every 3 years since it is located in a higher temperature region of the containment. As future experience dictates the need for gasket replacement in other areas of the containment, it will be factored into our replacement schedule.

Very truly yours,



Donald A. Ross  
Manager, Nuclear Generating Stations

DAR:cs  
Enclosures (40)

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

RO files

OB:AR:162

All Branch Chiefs except  
Construction

X DRYWELL HEAD MANHOLE COVER

X The enclosed report from the Jersey Central  
Power and Light Company to the Directorate  
of Licensing, pertaining to deterioration of  
the gaskets associated with the drywell head  
manhole cover at the Oyster Creek facility,  
is forwarded for your information.

X cc: H. D. Thornburg, RO

X Enclosure: Jersey Central ltr.  
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