



DR-2008

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
TRENTON

RICHARD J. HUGHES
GOVERNOR

January 20, 1969

Dear Mr. Price:

Ref. (1) USAEC Docket No. 50-219
(2) New Jersey PUC Docket No. 652-60

I am pleased and relieved to read that the Oyster Creek Nuclear Electric Generating Station No. 1 may now be granted an Operating License per the conditions stated in your Public Notice, Federal Register 30 (251): 19860-1. The State Government of New Jersey has conducted a continuing study of this facility broadly since its inception. Based on our findings, those of the regulatory staff of the Commission (published in a report dated December 23, 1968) and data supplied by the Applicant, we have concluded this facility may be constructed and operated without undue risk to the health and safety of the general public, provided appropriate future attention is given to the reservations by the Licensee noted by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards in their letter report of December 12, 1968 to Doctor Seaborg. The State Government of New Jersey, with due notice to these conditions, has no objection to the granting of an Operating License, and urges that one be granted at the earliest possible date.

This facility is almost two years behind schedule. This has been an educational experience for all concerned. Its purpose is the generation of electricity and as such, Oyster Creek No. 1 is a power station providing an absolutely essential support service. The Licensee, Jersey Central Power and Light Company, is, as a natural monopoly, under regulation as a utility. The nuclear reactor at Oyster Creek is the power source for the station.

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Mr. Harold L. Price

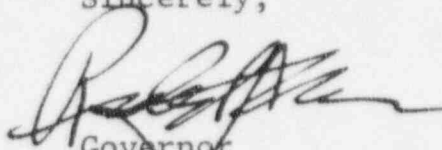
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These circumstances lead to a situation where there are shared responsibilities, as well as independent responsibilities. This condition was recognized by the Congress of the National Government when it drafted the Atomic Energy Act and its various amendments; I am specifically referring to the various sections of Chapter 19.

In a rapidly growing area of technology, all involved must develop together. Regulation must keep pace with technology. Whenever health and safety is a concern, it is relatively easy for a regulator to justify after the fact regulation, which may lead to difficult and costly facility back-fitting. On the other hand, while public health concerns are paramount, the public health, social and economic consequences of a chronic power deficit must be realistically balanced against the public health consequences of a highly improbable but, nonetheless, possible release of radioactivity in excess of prescribed levels.

Sincerely,



Governor

Mr. Harold L. Price
Director of Regulation
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545