



GPU Nuclear, Inc.
U.S. Route #9 South
Post Office Box 388
Forked River, NJ 08731-0388
Tel 609-971-4000

October 15, 1996
6730-96-2317

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn.: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sir:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket No. 50-219
Special Report 96-001, Revision 1

Enclosed is Special Report 96-001, Revision 1. The changed portions have been indicated with a bar in the right hand margin. This occurrence did not impact the health and safety of the public.

If any additional information or assistance is required, please contact Mr. John Rogers of my staff at 609.971.4893.

Very truly yours,

Michael B. Roche
Vice President and Director
Oyster Creek

MBR/JJR

cc: Oyster Creek NRC Project Manager
Administrator, Region I
Senior Resident Inspector

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Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Special Report: SR 96-001, Revision 1

Report Date: September 5, 1996
October 15, 1996 Revision 1

Date of Occurrence: August 6, 1996

Identification of Occurrence:

The High Range Radioactive Noble Gas Effluent Monitor (Stack RAGEMS) was inoperable for a period greater than seven days. This is a condition which requires a Special Report as described in Technical Specification 3.13.H(2).

Description of Occurrence:

On August 6, 1996, the Stack RAGEMS High Range Monitor was removed from service and declared inoperable to allow a secondary calibration in accordance with the Master Surveillance Schedule. This surveillance is required every 20 months. Difficulties were encountered which required component replacement. On the seventh day out of service, while the solid source calibration check was in progress to allow the return of the instrument to operability, an interlock on the source malfunctioned. The decision was made to return the source to the vendor for repair before allowing any further usage of the source.

Upon the return of the source from the vendor, the secondary calibration was again performed. The results did not meet the acceptance criteria. The returned source was then verified to be accurate by the successful completion of a secondary calibration of the Turbine Building RAGEMS High Range Monitor. In accordance with the Technical Specifications, Revision 0 of this Special Report was submitted on September 5, 1996.

Troubleshooting progressed and several anomalies were noted. Suspect components were replaced, including the power supply and the rate meter. On October 9, 1996, a successful primary calibration was performed on the Stack RAGEMS High Range Monitor, restoring it to operability.

There are no Technical Specification required compensatory actions or limiting conditions for operation. However, the bases of the Technical Specifications state:

"The capability is provided to detect and measure concentrations of noble gas fission products in...plant gaseous effluents...during and following an accident....These monitors augment the capabilities provided by the Post Accident Sampling System....The Post Accident Sampling System represents a preplanned alternate method to the high range radiation monitors..."

As the Post Accident Sampling System was fully operable at all times when required during this occurrence, the inoperability of this monitor has minimal safety significance.