

April 27, 1981



Kristin Gross
2 Browns Dock Road
Navesink, NJ 07752

Dear Kristin:

This is a response to your recent letter requesting information on nuclear waste and the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant.

Low-level wastes from nuclear power plants are placed in metal containers before shipment to commercial burial grounds. We are enclosing a fact sheet on waste disposal that identifies the burial locations.

The high-level wastes that result from the burning of uranium fuel in nuclear power reactors are contained in the used fuel which is being stored in specially designed water-filled basins, much like large swimming pools, at the reactor sites or at two away-from-reactor storage facilities.

The Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20585 is responsible for developing facilities for the ultimate disposal or longer-term interim storage of high-level wastes. The NRC will have to determine if these facilities can be built and operated safely and with minimal impact on the environment. If you have not already done so, we suggest you write to DOE for information about its program. In the meantime, we are enclosing a portion of an annual report on the government's waste management program.

Information on operating experience of the Oyster Creek reactor is available for public examination and review at the local public document room established for that facility. The PDR is located at the Ocean County Library, Brick Township Branch, 401 Chambers Bridge Road. The operating experience also is contained in a monthly "Status Report on Licensing Operating Reactors, NUREG-0020," which is available for purchase from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161 or under the GPO sales program at the NRC's Public Document Room, Washington, D.C. 20555.

We are enclosing a portion of an environmental impact statement on the Oyster Creek station which addresses the impact of the facility on fish life.

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We also are enclosing a copy of a regulation which contains the general criteria for security personnel at nuclear facilities. Details of a licensee's security plan, of course, are not made public.

Currently, there is no accepted quantitative measurement of the safety of nuclear reactors. So far, the safety record has been excellent. In more than 20 years of operation there has been no accident in which any member of the public has been killed or observably injured from radiation. This is still true even after Three Mile Island.

We hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

John Kopeck
Public Affairs Officer
Office of Public Affairs

Enclosures:
As stated

OFFICE	QPA						
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DATE	4/27/81						