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October 19, 1996  
6730-96-2210

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

Gentlemen:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS)  
Docket No. 50-219  
Facility Operating License No. DPR-16  
Thermo-Lag Fire Barriers

This letter requests withdrawal of requests for exemption from the requirements of 10CFR50 Appendix R for installed OCNGS Thermo-Lag fire barrier configurations previously submitted in GPU Nuclear letter dated December 29, 1995 (C321-95-2363).

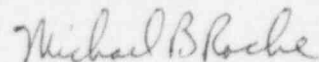
GPU Nuclear has reassessed Thermo-Lag alternatives and associated costs for OCNGS. As a result of this reassessment, GPU Nuclear has decided to modify and upgrade the installed OCNGS electrical raceway Thermo-Lag fire barrier configurations to satisfy the current Appendix R requirements for 1-hour and 3-hour rated barriers. This effort requires solicitation of competitive bids from approved suppliers, completion of engineering and design work to support the modifications and upgrades, and scheduling of the individual barrier modifications based on accessibility during plant operation or plant shutdown. This engineering work is currently planned to be started by the second quarter of 1997. Although a detailed schedule for this work is still being developed, GPU Nuclear anticipates that modifications should begin by the summer of 1998 for fire barriers that can be modified or upgraded during operation. Fire barriers not accessible during plant operation or cannot be worked due to operationally sensitive areas will be completed during the next refueling outage (17R) scheduled for the Fall of 1998. Final scheduling will be in accordance with the OCNGS Integrated Schedule which will ensure that modifications and upgrades will be completed no later than December 31, 1998, consistent with our current commitment to achieve resolution of Thermo-Lag fire barriers. Upon completion of these modifications, operability of the affected fire barriers will be restored.

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If any additional information is needed, please contact Mr. David J. Distel, Corporate Regulatory Affairs at (201) 316-7955.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael B. Roche".

Michael B. Roche  
Vice President & Director,  
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating  
Station

MBR/DJD/jr

c: Administrator, Region I  
OCNGS NRC Resident Inspector  
OCNGS NRC Project Manager