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October 29, 1996
6730-96-2331

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

Dear Sir:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket No. 50-219
NRC Bulletin 95-02

On October 17, 1995, the USNRC issued Bulletin 95-02 "Unexpected Clogging of a Residual Heat Removal (RHR) Pump Strainer While Operating in Suppression Pool Cooling Mode." This bulletin required a 30 day response which was docketed by the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station on November 16, 1995. The bulletin also required an additional response when the recommended actions described in the bulletin were completed. This letter provides the reply to that second reporting requirement.

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

Very truly yours,

Michael 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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Attachment I

By letter dated November 16, 1995, the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station submitted the required 30 day report in response to NRC Bulletin 95-002. The letter consisted of five NRC recommended actions and the respective GPU Nuclear responses. As a result of actions completed prior to and during the recent 16R refueling outage, the response to request 3 has been updated. The most recent information is supplied below.

NRC Requested Action No. 3

Schedule a suppression pool cleaning. The schedule for cleaning the pool should be consistent with the operability evaluation in requested action 1 above. In addition, a program for periodic cleaning of the pool should be established, including procedures for cleaning of the pool, criteria for determining the appropriate cleaning frequency, and criteria for evaluating the adequacy of the pool cleanliness.

GPUN Response No. 3

A torus inspection and cleaning are scheduled for each refueling outage. The scope and type of torus cleaning is determined by the results of the inspection. The inspection is normally conducted using a video camera in a small, remotely controlled submarine. Materials removed from the torus are evaluated to assist in determining the effectiveness of the foreign material exclusion program.

During 16R, each of the three Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) suction strainers were inspected and videotaped by divers. Each was found in excellent condition, with all holes free of debris, and no accumulation of fibrous material. A very thin film of sludge coating the strainers, as well as the rest of the torus components, posed no obstruction to the flow through the strainers. The strainers were vacuum cleaned during the desludging operations.

A specification for desludging the torus was developed and implemented. Torus sludge was removed and weighed using divers and a vacuum cleaning system. In the original submittal of November 16, 1995, GPU Nuclear conservatively estimated the sludge accumulation rate to be 125 lbs per year. Based on an analysis of the desludging operations during 16R, this number has been recalculated to be approximately 50 lbs per year. Future desludging operations will be scheduled based on the accumulation rate and the assumptions used for the modification designed to meet Regulatory Guide 1.82, Revision 2, criteria. This desludging schedule will commence with the next refueling outage, 17R.

The results of the suppression pool cleaning revealed an amount of small debris had accumulated over the years. Various tools, small nuts, bolts, and washers, wire, broken glass duct tape, plastic, 6 inch by 6 inch wipe towels, etc. were removed. This cleaning essentially baselined the cleanliness of the suppression pool. Existing controls including downcomer covers, foreign material exclusion procedures, and employee training have been effective in reducing the foreign material introduced into the suppression pool.