

**GPU Nuclear Corporation**  
Post Office Box 388  
Route 9 South  
Forked River, New Jersey 08731-0388  
609 971-4000  
Writer's Direct Dial Number:

March 19, 1990

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

Gentlemen:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station  
Docket No. 50-219  
Technical Specification Change Request No. 186

Pursuant to 10CFR50.90 and 10CFR50.91, GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPUN), operator of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, Provisional Operating License No. DPR-16, requests a change to Appendix A of that license.

The enclosed Technical Specification Change Request (TSCR) proposes to allow an idle recirculation loop to be isolated. Oyster Creek is currently authorized to continue power operation if one of the five recirculation loops is taken out of service provided the idle loop is not isolated. The allowed configuration is the loop discharge valve closed and the discharge bypass and suction valves open. This request would allow the discharge bypass valve and suction valve to be closed in addition to the discharge valve thus completely isolating the portion of the recirculation loop containing the pump. Loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) and thermal stress analyses support the proposed change.

GPU Nuclear began preparation of this TSCR as a result of a Technical Specification-required shutdown on February 6, 1990. The shutdown was required when unidentified leak rate approached the Technical Specification limit of 5 gallons per minute. The leakage was due to a failed recirculation pump seal on recirculation loop A. If the pump could have been isolated, the leakage might have been reduced and a shutdown averted. We believe the ability to isolate a recirculation pump would prevent unnecessary shutdowns in the future.

At present, the same recirculation pump seal which failed in February 1990 has again shown indications of degradation. The pressure and temperature in the cavity between the #1 and #2 seals is elevated. Currently, there appears to be no effect on unidentified leak rate, however, further degradation could result in increasing seal leakage and unidentified leak rate. Therefore, GPU Nuclear requests the NRC Staff to place a high priority on reviewing this request. We will also consider requesting this change on an exigent basis should unidentified leak rate increase to the point where isolating the recirculation pump becomes necessary to attempt reducing the leak rate and avoid a plant shutdown.

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This license amendment request has been reviewed in accordance with Section 6.5 of the Oyster Creek Technical Specifications, and using the standards in 10CFR50.92, we have concluded that this proposed change does not constitute a significant hazards consideration. Pursuant to 10CFR50.91(b)(1), a copy of this amendment request has been sent to the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Very truly yours,

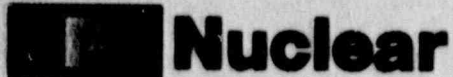


E. E. Fitzpatrick  
Vice President and Director  
Oyster Creek

cc: Regional Administrator  
Region I  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

NRC Resident Inspector  
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Mr. Alex Dromerick  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Station Pl-137  
Washington, DC 20555



**GPU Nuclear Corporation**  
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609 971-4000  
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Mr. Kent Tosch, Chief  
Bureau of Nuclear Engineering  
Department of Environmental Protection  
CN 411  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Mr. Tosch:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station  
Provisional Operating License No. DPR-16  
Technical Specification Change Request No. 186

Pursuant to 10CFR50.91(b)(1), please find enclosed a copy of the subject document which was filed with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission on March 19, 1990.

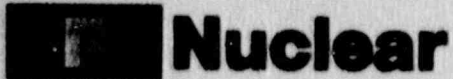
Very truly yours,

  
E. E. Fitzpatrick  
Vice President and Director,  
Oyster Creek

EF/PC/cb(TSCR186)  
Attachment

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GPU Nuclear Corporation is a subsidiary of the General Public Utilities Corporation



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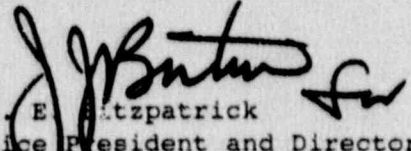
The Honorable Debra Madensky  
Mayor of Lacey Township  
818 West Lacey Road  
Forked River, New Jersey 08731

Dear Mayor Madensky:

Enclosed herewith is one copy of Technical Specification Change Request No. 186 for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station Operating License.

This document was filed with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission on March 19, 1990.

Very truly yours,

  
E. E. Fitzpatrick  
Vice President and Director,  
Oyster Creek

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