



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Governor

LISA P. JACKSON  
Commissioner

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January 31, 2008

Catherine, Fred and Jennifer Arellano  
421 Lincoln Avenue  
Prospect Park, Pennsylvania 19076

Dear Arellanos:

Commissioner P. Jackson has asked me to respond on her behalf to your correspondence of January 5, 2008 regarding your concerns related to the possible need for cooling towers at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station as part of their license renewal.


As you are aware, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has sole regulatory control over the Oyster Creek operating license and the pending 20 year license renewal application. Throughout the license renewal process, the Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Bureau of Nuclear Engineering, continues to critically observe NRC inspections of Oyster Creek, especially any related to license renewal, and reviews license renewal submittals made by Oyster Creek to the NRC.

New Jersey, through the NJDEP, reviews, regulates and issues New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permits for industrial facilities, including Oyster Creek. The NRC is not involved in the approval process for these NJPDES permits. Oyster Creek has applied for a renewal of their NJPDES permit (No. NJ0005550). This application and various related studies are under review by the NJDEP. There are currently significant issues being raised by the NJDEP related to issuance of this permit, including the possibility of requiring cooling towers at the Oyster Creek facility. The NJDEP recognizes the complex issues associated with cooling water for the Oyster Creek facility including the possible need for installation of a closed cycle cooling system. Be assured that NJDEP's final NJPDES permit action will address Section 316(b) regulations of the federal Clean Water Act and will ensure the continued protection of the public waters and marine life which are impacted by the operation of Oyster Creek.

Thank you for writing and sharing your concerns about New Jersey's environment. Be assured that both the Governor and the Commissioner carefully consider all comments raised by

members of the public and share in your determination that Oyster Creek should be allowed to operate only if all safety and environmental requirements are vigorously maintained.

Sincerely yours,



Jill Lipoti, Ph.D.  
Director