



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

MARK N. MAURIELLO
Acting Commissioner

April 7, 2009

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Oyster Creek Generating Station
Facility Operating License No. DPR-16
Docket No. 50-219
3-D Drywell Analysis - Independent Review Findings

Dear Commissioners:

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the State of New Jersey-sponsored independent review of the Oyster Creek drywell analysis, dated April 6, 2009, conducted by Becht Nuclear Services (BNS). BNS reviewed Structural Integrity Associates (SIA) Reports 0006004.403 and 000604.404, as well as the NRC sponsored analysis performed by Sandia National Laboratories (Sandia) in January, 2007, SAND2007-0055.

In Section 3 of their report, Becht describes conditions and assumptions with both positive and negative effects on the accuracy and conservatism of the evaluations. BNS's review concluded that the SIA analysis presents a modern, up-to-date deterministic evaluation of the Oyster Creek Drywell in accordance with ASME Section III, Subsection NE. The analysis demonstrates that Code requirements are satisfied for the drywell in its current state of degradation based on the limited thickness measurements available and as modeled based on these measurements.

BNS recommends that continued measurement of drywell thickness and evaluation be an ongoing process, and that the interval of inspections and measurements be done and evaluated as frequently as practicable in the early years of extended operation. This is consistent with the State of New Jersey's position that it would be prudent to inspect 100 percent of the drywell bays during the fall 2010 refueling outage for sandbed coating failures. We recognize Exelon's intent to inspect 50% of the drywell bays in 2010, but we would encourage a commitment from Exelon to the NRC that 100% will be inspected.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly at (609) 633-7964 or Mr. Patrick Mulligan, Manager of the Bureau of Nuclear Engineering, at (609) 984-7701.

Sincerely yours,



Jill Lipoti, Ph.D.
Director

Enclosure

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