



State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection
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Bradley M. Campbell
Commissioner
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Richard J. Codey
Acting Governor

September 9, 2005

Honorable Joseph C. Scarpelli
Mayor, Brick Township
401 Chambers Bridge Road
Brick, New Jersey 08723

Dear Mayor Scarpelli:

I am writing in response to your August 15, 2005 letter regarding the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station's drywell corrosion monitoring program and the availability of supporting documentation of drywell corrosion inspections.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Nuclear Engineering has closely followed the drywell corrosion issue at Oyster Creek since it was identified in the 1980's. As you are aware, Oyster Creek has in place an ongoing, formalized inspection program to monitor the condition of the drywell. Two types of inspections are conducted. One type is an ultrasonic inspection of portions of the drywell, including both the upper drywell region, sometimes referred to as the cylinder region, and the lower drywell region, sometimes referred to as the spherical shell. The second is visual inspection of the drywell coating that was applied in the region referred to as the sand bed region. The coating prevents corrosion of the drywell in the sand bed region but must be periodically inspected to confirm the coating's condition. The uncoated portions of the drywell remain susceptible to corrosion; hence, critical drywell areas must be periodically inspected by ultrasonic testing to determine the current drywell wall thickness.

The potential for ongoing drywell corrosion represents an issue of concern, especially as it relates to aging of the plant and considering that Oyster Creek has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for an extension of its operating license for an additional 20 years beyond the current license's expiration date of April, 2009. In response to our concerns, Oyster Creek provided a brief report titled "Assessment of Primary Containment Drywell Corrosion for the Period of Extended Operation." A copy of this report is enclosed.

With respect to the difficulty being experienced in obtaining drywell corrosion inspection program results, an engineer from our Bureau of Nuclear Engineering has met with the Oyster Creek Site Regulatory Assurance Manager, Ms. Jhansi Kandasamy, and discussed the requests made by Ms. Edith Gbur, President, Jersey Shore Nuclear Watch and Mr. Paul Gunter of the Nuclear Information Service. As a result of this meeting, Ms. Kandasamy has

already spoken with Ms. Gbur to arrange making available the information to her and Mr. Gunter.

Thank you for writing and sharing your concerns with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley M. Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bradley" being more prominent.

Bradley M. Campbell
Commissioner

Enclosure

c: Ms. Jhansi Kandasamy, Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station