

FACT SHEET Close Oyster Creek

- Oyster Creek is quickly approaching the end of its lifetime. The plant has age-related degradation and an outdated design.
- Oyster Creek is a potential terrorist target.
- The population in the area has more than tripled in size since the plant was first built, and continues to grow at one of the fastest rates in the nation.
- In the case of an accident, which becomes more likely as the plant ages, or a terrorist attack, evacuation is nearly impossible.
- We don't need Oyster Creek. The plant produces less than 1% of the power on the regional electricity grid, which has ample supply of excess capacity if the plant were shut down tomorrow. In the long term, we can replace Oyster Creek with energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy generation.

Oyster Creek's Time is Up

Built in 1969, Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station is quickly approaching the end of its lifetime. The plant is currently licensed for forty years because major safety components are designed to withstand a limited number of thermal cycles.

Nationwide, the risks of a nuclear accident have been found to increase with the age of the plant. Thirty percent of recent equipment failures at nuclear plants were due in at least in part to age-related degradation.

Oyster Creek is currently in its wear-out phase. If Oyster Creek is allowed to operate an additional twenty years, the plant will only become increasingly prone to accidents. If an accident were to occur at Oyster Creek, and the containment system couldn't withstand the pressure, the plant's design is such that the public would be directly exposed to radioactive steam.

Oyster Creek is a Security Risk

Oyster Creek stores 2-3,000 highly radioactive spent fuel assemblies in a spent fuel pool located directly above the reactor. The spent fuel pool and the reactor are not structurally robust and are not designed to resist an aircraft attack.

According to Stephen Lazorchak, a consulting structural engineer and former employee at Oyster Creek, the impact from one 1,000 pound object traveling at 300 mph and hitting the reactor building's concrete floor near the spent fuel pool at an angle of 30 degrees above horizontal exceeds Oyster Creek's strongest floor beam capacity by more than 500 percent, and the weakest beam capacity by more than 8,000 percent.

The impact of a large aircraft into the reactor building's concrete floor near the spent fuel pool would result in catastrophic building failure, causing a water leak that would uncover the spent fuel assemblies, resulting in burning fuel leaking onto the floors below, damaging vital wiring and equipment needed to shut down the reactor. The result of a terrorist attack on Oyster Creek's reactor building would exceed a Chernobyl meltdown event because there is more fuel in Oyster Creek's fuel pool than there was in Chernobyl's reactor.

Ocean County's Population Continues to Grow

When Oyster Creek was built, Ocean County was still relatively rural. In fact, because of the dangers, most nuclear power plants are located in less populated, "out of the way" locations. No one can claim that Ocean County is "out of the way" anymore. Ocean County's population has tripled in size since the plant was built,

to more than half a million people in 2000. During the summertime, the population along the shore typically doubles in size.

Population growth in Ocean County continues; in fact, it is increasing twice as fast as the rest of the state and has one of the fastest rates in the country. If the population continues to grow at its current rate, Ocean County will have more than 800,000 residents by 2030.

Evacuation Is Nearly Impossible

It is highly unlikely that the population living within a 10-mile radius of Oyster Creek would be able to escape radioactive release.

Even if the evacuation plan worked according to plan, it would take too long to adequately protect public safety. State Police estimate that it will take 9 ½ hours to evacuate a 10-mile radius during the summer and about 7 hours during the winter. Depending on weather patterns, radiation could be released within as little as 1-2 hours of the start of some types of accidents.

Making matters worse, most people living anywhere close to the plant will attempt to evacuate, and they should. A radioactive plume won't stop at the 10-mile border.

Clearly the current unworkable evacuation plan will only be more impossible if Oyster Creek's license is extended another twenty years.

We Don't Need Oyster Creek

New Jersey consumers are *not* dependent on Oyster Creek. Oyster Creek produces less than 1% of the power on the regional electricity grid. Because the grid has ample supply of excess capacity, the lights would stay on if Oyster Creek shut down tomorrow.

Nonetheless, we don't want to depend on the grid's excess capacity. The state is currently planning for the long term, with better energy efficiency and renewable energy generation. Just a couple of weeks ago, the state legislature passed a bill setting efficiency standards for just eight common appliances. The bill will reduce energy need by about half the energy Oyster Creek produces.

The state is also working to increase New Jersey's renewable portfolio standard to 20% by 2020. Renewable energy is a growing industry in the state. In fact, solar energy production in New Jersey grew 550% between 2002 and 2004.

Ocean County's economy is *not* dependent on Oyster Creek. According to the Ocean County Planning Board, the county's economy is a great deal more dependent on tourism and the healthcare industry than an aging nuclear power plant.

Nor does Lacey Township need Oyster Creek--the town receives an annual energy subsidy of \$11.5 million from the state. State law requires the subsidy to be granted in perpetuity whether or not the plant remains open or is generating electricity.

And finally, plant employees do not need to be dependent on Oyster Creek operating for an additional twenty years, putting half a million residents in harm's way. Exelon has ample funding for Oyster Creek's decommissioning and dismantlement. In fact, the decommissioning fund totals about \$100 million more than the projected cost. This money should be spent re-training or compensating plant employees, and should *not* go into Exelon's already deep pockets.

We can't depend on Exelon or the NRC to make the right decisions about Oyster Creek. We are depending on our state leaders, our stewards of the environment, to protect New Jersey residents from an unnecessary risk. Oppose a license extension for Oyster Creek and call for the plant's timely closure.

Elected Officials Opposed to Oyster Creek License Extension

Congressman Frank Pallone
Congressman Chris Smith
State Senator Robert Singer
State Assemblyman Ronald Dancer
State Assemblyman Joseph Malone
State Senator Andrew Ciesla
State Assemblyman David Wolfe
State Assemblyman James Holzapfel
State Senator Leonard Connors
State Assemblyman Christopher Connors
State Assemblyman Brian Rumpf
Mayor Joseph Scarpelli and Brick Township Council
Mayor Raymond Coles and Lakewood Township Council
Mayor Jason Verano and Berkeley Township Council
Mayor Daniel Van Pelt and Ocean Township Council
Mayor Paul Brush and Dover (Toms River) Township Council
Mayor Thomas Vogel and Point Pleasant Beach Borough Council
Mayor Darlene Scocca and the City of Burlington Council
Mayor Sean Giblin and Jackson Township Council
Mayor Michael Fressola and Manchester Township Council
Mayor Carl Block and Stafford Township Council
Mayor David Siddons and Island Heights Borough Council
Mayor Kenneth Hershey and Seaside Heights Borough Council

Coalition to Close Oyster Creek

New Jersey Public Interest Research Group and the National Association of State PIRGs
New Jersey Environmental Federation
Sierra Club, New Jersey
Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic
League of Women Voters, New Jersey and National
New Jersey Council of Churches
GreenFaith
Grandmothers, Mothers and More for Energy Safety
Jersey Shore Nuclear Watch
Concerned Citizens of Lacey
Barnegat Women's Club
Alliance for a Living Ocean
Ocean County Citizens Conservation Council
Garden State Earth Institute
Lacey Rail Trail Environmental Committee
New Jersey Anti-Nuclear Power Alliance
Enviro Watch
Unplug Salem
Coalition for Peace and Justice
Greenpeace
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Nuclear Security Coalition
Public Citizen
Think Outside the Bomb National Youth Network on Nuclear Issues