

May 17, 2000

Mr. R. P. Powers
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Group
American Electric Power Company
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, MI 49107-1395

SUBJECT: DONALD C. COOK PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - ISSUANCE OF DRAFT REPORT ENTITLED "ASSESSMENT OF RISK SIGNIFICANCE ASSOCIATED WITH ISSUES IDENTIFIED AT D.C. COOK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT"

Dear Mr. Powers:

By letter dated August 12, 1999, the NRC transmitted the draft preliminary results of an analysis of the risk significance of issues that were identified at D.C. Cook Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 (Cook) between August 1997 and January 1999. Subsequent to that, by letter dated November 9, 1999, NRC transmitted the results of the second phase of the risk assessment. We have completed the assessment of risk significance of all issues identified at Cook. The attached draft report contains the analyses of individual and integrated risk significance associated with 141 issues identified at Cook between August 1997 and December 1999.

Five of the 141 issues identified at Cook had estimated changes to core damage frequencies greater than 1×10^{-6} /year and as a result they were identified as potential accident sequence precursors. One of these precursors was reported in an LER issued in 1998. It pertained to a configuration where all five component cooling water pumps that support both units may fail as a result of being exposed to the high humidity and temperature environment caused by a postulated high-energy line break (HELB) in the adjoining pipe chase (LER 316/98-005). We transmitted the analysis of this issue to you in a letter dated September 27, 1999. We have already received your comments on this issue and revised our analysis to address these comments. Therefore, we do not solicit your comments on this issue. The other four potential precursors are related to issues identified in 1999 (two LERs, one NRC inspection finding, and one condition report). Under a separate cover, we have already transmitted the analyses of these four potential precursors to you in a letter dated May 9, 2000, for your comment.

During the briefing to the NRC Commissioners by Cook Management on January 10, 2000, you stated that: (a) Cook had analyzed the restart issues and developed a list of approximately 40 items for increased management attention due to their potential safety significance; and (b) Cook found three issues (high-energy line break program, motor-operated valves, and ice condenser) to have some safety significance. Since you have also prioritized issues according to safety significance, we are interested in your comments on the completeness of the scope of issues.

We are specifically interested in your comments on the attached report with respect to the following:

1. Scope of issues (Are there any potentially risk significant issues at Cook that NRC has not analyzed?).
2. The technical adequacy of the analysis of risk significance of issues identified as potential precursors or non-precursors.

After addressing your comments, and any comments we receive from other stakeholders (Nuclear Energy Institute, Electric Power Research Institute, Westinghouse Owners Group, Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, and the Union of Concerned Scientists), we plan to publish the attached report as a NUREG document.

In order for us to incorporate your comments, perform any required re-analysis, and prepare the final report of our analyses of these events in a timely manner, you are requested to complete your review and to provide any comments within 60 calendar days of receipt of this letter.

Please contact me at (630) 829-9700 if you have any questions regarding this request. This request is covered by the existing OMB clearance number (3150-0104) for NRC staff follow up review of events documented in LERs. Your response to this request is voluntary and does not constitute a licensing requirement.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-315; 50-316
License Nos. DPR-58; DPR-74

Attachment: Dft NUREG, "Assessment of Risk Significance Associated with Issues Identified at D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant, Volumes 1 and 2"

cc: A. C. Bakken III, Site Vice President
J. Pollock, Plant Manager
M. Rencheck, Vice President, Nuclear Engineering
R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Emergency Management Division
MI Department of State Police
D. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists

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