

July 17, 2001

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

SUBJECT: NRC OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS REPORT NO. 3-2000-026

Dear Mr. Powers:

This letter refers to an investigation conducted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Investigations (OI) to determine if a site manager deliberately violated plant procedures related to completion of work without an approved field change notice to expedite start up. Based on the evidence developed during the investigation, OI did not substantiate the issue and the matter is considered closed. The synopsis from the OI report of investigation is enclosed.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact James Heller or Andrea Kock of the NRC Region III staff at telephone numbers 1-800-522-3025 or (630) 829-9500.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if any, will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/ Steven A. Reynolds for

Geoffrey Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-315; 50-316
License Nos. DPR-58; DPR-74
Enclosure: As stated
bcc w/encl: RIII:OAC

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¹ OI:RIII concurrence limited to authorizing the public release of the OI report synopsis.

R. Powers

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cc w/encl: 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

SYNOPSIS

This investigation was initiated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Investigations (OI), Region III, on May 31, 2000, to determine whether a project manager at the D.C. Cook Nuclear Plant, American Electric Power Company, deliberately violated plant design procedures to expedite plant startup. Specifically, the project manager directed installation workers to remove a handrail interference without following the established process for altering permanent plant equipment.

Based upon the evidence developed during this investigation, it was not substantiated that the project manager directed installation workers to remove a handrail interference in deliberate violation of plant design procedures.