



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

December 8, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: J. E. Dyer, Regional Administrator

FROM: Geoffrey E. Grant, Chairman, D.C. Cook Restart Oversight Panel

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR RESTART APPROVAL FOR THE
DONALD C. COOK (D.C. COOK) NUCLEAR PLANT - UNIT 1

This memorandum is to inform you that the NRC staff has completed the inspection and assessment activities outlined in its NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0350 Restart Action Matrix regarding restart of the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant (D.C. Cook) - Unit 1. Previously, the NRC completed its inspection and assessment activities pertaining to Unit 2 restart, which was described in a memorandum to you dated June 12, 2000. Unit 2 successfully started up and attained full power in early July 2000. The NRC began the transition towards implementation of the revised reactor oversight process and the revised assessment process at D.C. Cook upon restart of Unit 2.

In early August 2000, the NRC Restart Oversight Panel approved a revised charter implementing the revised Inspection Manual Chapter 0350. The Panel approved a Restart Action Matrix for Unit 1, which included verifying operability of safety systems and containment, assessing operational readiness, and verifying that licensing issues necessary for restart would be addressed.

The NRC staff has completed its inspection and assessment activities for Unit 1 and has evaluated the effectiveness of the licensee's actions to address the issues that resulted in the plant shutdown. The Panel's assessment of the licensee's corrective actions was based on resident and region-based inspector observations and a number of special inspection efforts, including the Biennial Permanent Modifications and Annual 10 CFR 50.59 Inspection, and a Unit 1 Restart Readiness Assessment Team Inspection.

There have been frequent public meetings between the licensee and the Panel, and frequent internal meetings of the Panel membership. The results of these meetings were documented in public meeting summaries and internal Panel meeting minutes, all of which have been or will be placed in the NRC Public Electronic Reading Room. In addition, the Unit 1 Restart Action Matrix, which documents the actions initiated by the NRC pursuant to the Inspection Manual Chapter 0350 process, is attached. The Unit 1 Restart Action Matrix indicates where the basis for resolution of each issue is documented. In accordance with Inspection Manual Chapter 0350 guidelines, the NRC staff has coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and will notify congressional, state and local officials, the media, and other interested parties, following issuance of the letter to American Electric Power closing the Restart Action Matrix.

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Accordingly, the NRC Restart Oversight Panel concluded that D.C. Cook's performance improvement initiatives have been sufficiently effective to support restart of D.C. Cook Unit 1, and therefore, the Inspection Manual Chapter 0350 Restart Action Matrix for Unit 1 is closed with the exception of notifications noted above. Therefore, the Panel recommends approval for restart of D.C. Cook, Unit 1.

The NRC Restart Oversight Panel will continue to provide oversight of D.C. Cook through restart of Unit 1 and until sufficient operating experience has accumulated such that augmented NRC oversight through a Restart Oversight Panel is no longer necessary and NRC oversight can occur under the routine inspection program. While the specific Restart Action Matrix issues have been adequately resolved, the licensee is responsible for ensuring that any other issues which may impact plant restart and safe operation are promptly identified and properly addressed. The Region will continue to monitor licensee startup activities through resident and region-based inspections, including a period of continuous observation during restart of the plant.

Docket Nos. 50-315; 50-316

Attachment: Restart Action Matrix

cc w/att: J. Caldwell, RIII
J. Grobe, RIII