

January 14, 2003

Mr. A. C. Bakken III
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Group
American Electric Power Company
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, MI 49107

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT FOLLOW-UP LETTER - D.C. COOK NUCLEAR POWER
PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Mr. Bakken:

On October 3, 2002, the NRC staff forwarded a letter concerning the final significance determination of a low to moderate safety significance (White) inspection finding in the Mitigating Systems cornerstone. This finding involved a failed essential service water (ESW) strainer basket, caused by inadequate strainer basket installation instructions and maintenance practices, which permitted debris to bypass the strainer and enter the ESW system, resulting in the debris intrusion event experienced at the D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant on August 29, 2001. This finding was initially identified by the NRC as a safety-significant finding on May 17, 2002, and therefore is considered as a white finding for the 2nd quarter of 2002.

The characterization of this finding as White, in conjunction with a White finding in the 1st quarter of 2002 associated with the failure to take corrective action to preclude a repetitive failure of the Unit 2 Turbine-Driven Auxiliary Feedwater Pump, has resulted in two White inputs to the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone in the Reactor Safety Strategic Performance Area.

The NRC Action Matrix defines the expected level of response by the NRC and licensee based on inputs from the assessment process. Actions are graded such that the NRC becomes more engaged as licensee performance declines. In July 2002, the NRC completed Supplemental Inspection 95001, "Inspection For One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area" which focused on your actions with respect to the repetitive failures of the Unit 2 turbine driven auxiliary feedwater pump. The results of that inspection were communicated to you in NRC Inspection Report 50-315/02-05; 50-316/02-05. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Degraded Cornerstone Column which corresponds to the third column of this matrix and indicates declining performance in the Mitigation Systems Cornerstone for Unit 2. This assessment was based on two low to moderate safety significance (White) inspection findings.

In accordance with the Action Matrix, the NRC will conduct Supplemental Inspection 95002 "Inspection For One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area." The purpose of this inspection is to (1) provide assurance that the root and contributing causes for the individual and collective risk significant performance issues are

understood; (2) independently assess the extent of condition; and (3) provide assurance that the corrective actions are sufficient to prevent recurrence. We intend to conduct this inspection onsite during the weeks of February 17 and February 24, 2003.

This letter will also serve as notification to you that we will be rescheduling the baseline inspection 71152, "Identification and Resolution of Problems" that was originally scheduled to begin onsite February 3, 2003. The new dates for the inspection will be provided in the inspection schedule enclosed with the Annual Assessment Letter which will be sent to you in early March 2003.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made 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/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Laura Collins, Acting Chief, Reactor Projects Branch 6, at (630) 829-9604, with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA by James L. Caldwell Acting for/

J. E. Dyer
Regional Administrator

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

cc: J. Pollock, Site Vice President
M. Finissi, Plant Manager
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

See Previous Concurrence

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