

April 21, 2003

LICENSEE: American Electric Power Company
FACILITY: D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Station
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 10, 2003, REGULATORY PERFORMANCE MEETING WITH AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

On April 10, 2003, a public meeting was held at the Park Inn, Stevensville, Michigan, between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and American Electric Power Company staff. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the NRC's assessment of D.C. Cook's performance for the period of January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002, and to discuss the status of corrective actions associated with two White findings which resulted in D.C. Cook being placed in the Degraded Cornerstone column of the Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Assessment Program," Action Matrix. The slides presented that evening by the NRC and the licensee are available in ADAMS (accession numbers ML030920499 and ML031070320). Attached to this letter is a list of participants in the meeting.

During the NRC presentation, an overall assessment of D.C. Cook performance was provided. As explained in the Annual Assessment letter from the NRC to Mr. A. C. Bakken III, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Generating Group, American Electric Power, dated March 4, 2003, reference ADAMS accession number ML030640193, D.C. Cook operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety.

In addition to presenting a summary of the NRC's assessment of D.C. Cook Performance last year, the NRC staff provided a summary of the results of a recent Supplemental Inspection. In late February 2003, the NRC performed Supplemental Inspection Procedure 95002, "Inspection For One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area." This inspection resulted in the determination that the licensee's evaluation of the two White findings was incomplete because an adequate extent of condition review for the root and contributing causes had not yet been performed. Specifically, the extent of condition reviews for maintenance procedure adequacy and condition report evaluation and closure for equipment-related issues, which were two important causes for both of the White findings, were not adequately completed. The NRC considered this to be a significant weakness with the licensee's evaluation of the issues and resulted in both of the White findings that contributed to the Degraded Cornerstone remaining open.

Following the NRC staff's presentation, licensee management acknowledged that D.C. Cook operational performance was in need of improvement, and that there were problems with implementation of the site corrective action program. Mr. Pollock, Site Vice President, discussed site performance in 2002, noting that improvements have been made in some areas, though repetitive equipment problems, poor corrective action implementation, and human performance problems resulted in challenges to plant operators. Mr. Finissi, Plant Manager, discussed efforts being taken to improve human performance including the focus being placed

on accountability, leadership, and quality. Mr. Giessner, Chair, Equipment Reliability Steering Committee, discussed actions being taken to improve equipment reliability including the strategy and process being used, accomplishments, and challenges. Mr. Noonan, Performance Assurance Director, discussed corrective action program implementation problems and challenges, and actions being taken to address these problems. Mr. Noonan stated that based on the results of the NRC Problem Identification and Resolution team inspection and the recent 95002 Supplemental Inspection, inconsistent corrective action closure was the pre-dominant problem. The licensee conducted a root cause evaluation for this problem and have initiated actions to improve performance in this area including the issuance of a stop work order, and implementation of a Corrective Action Closure Board.

Throughout the licensee's presentations on human performance, equipment reliability, and corrective actions, the NRC staff questioned the licensee staff on details regarding the actions being taken, or planned, to improve performance at D.C. Cook. The meeting concluded with Mr. G. Grant, Director, Division of Reactor Projects, Region III, and Mr. J. Dyer, Regional Administrator, Region III, summarizing the results of the NRC's assessment of performance at D.C. Cook, and reiterating the need for D.C. Cook to take thorough and comprehensive action to address the operational and process implementation problems that were indicative of performance at D.C. Cook during the past year.

Before adjourning the meeting the NRC provided the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions.

/RA/

Eric R. Duncan, Chief
Branch 6
Division of Reactor Projects

- cc: J. Dyer, Regional Administrator
- J. Caldwell, Deputy Regional Administrator
- G. Grant, Director, DRP
- S. Reynolds, Deputy Director, DRP
- E. Duncan, Chief, Branch 6, DRP
- L. Kozak, Project Engineer, DRP
- B. Kemker, SRI, D.C. Cook
- I. Netzel, RI, D.C. Cook

Please see previous concurrence.

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Meeting Participants
April 10, 2003
D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Annual and Regulatory Performance Meeting

Name	Organization
Sam Collins	NRC, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Jim Dyer	NRC, Regional Administrator, Region III
Geoffrey Grant	NRC, Director, Division of Reactor Projects (DRP), Region III
Anton Vogel	NRC, DRP, RIII
Eric Duncan	NRC, DRP, RIII
Brian Kemker	NRC, Senior Resident Inspector, DRP, RIII
Ivy Netzel	NRC, Resident Inspector, DRP, RIII
John Stang	NRC, Senior Project Manager, NRR
Chris Bakken	Senior Vice President, AEP
Joe Pollock	Site Vice President, AEP
Mike Finissi	Plant Manager, AEP
Jack Giesner	Equipment Reliability Steering Committee, AEP
Tom Noonan	Director, Performance Assurance, AEP