November 14, 1996

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-315/96009(DRS); 50-316/96009(DRS)AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

On September 13, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection of your implementation of 10 CFR 50.65, "Requirements for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants" (the maintenance rule), at the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Your program for implementing the requirements of the maintenance rule followed the guidance provided in NUMARC 93-01, Revision 2, "Industry Guideline for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants," dated April 1996. Since NUMARC 93-01, Revision 2, had not been endorsed by the NRC at the time of the inspection, the team inspected the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant using NUMARC 93-01, Revision 0, dated May 1993, which was endorsed in Regulatory Guide 1.160, Revision 1, "Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants," dated January 1995. Your program generally met the requirements of the maintenance rule. We noted that your recent independent self-assessment effort significantly enhanced your maintenance rule program; however, completion of the corrective actions associated with the self-assessment effort is crucial in effectively meeting all aspects of the maintenance rule.

We identified two violations during this inspection. The first violation involved the failure to set adequate reliability performance criteria, commensurate with safety, for systems, structures, and components of high safety significance. We determined that for a number of high safety significant systems, structures, and components, you used functional failures as the sole means of measuring reliability. The second violation involved the failure to establish appropriate basis for the instituted unavailability goal of the containment hydrogen control system. In addition, one unresolved item was identified regarding the possibility that problems with certain systems, structures, and components could be masked by their functional failure definitions. Please provide your response to this unresolved item with your response to the violations.

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These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation, and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Brent Clayton for

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-315; 50-316

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report No. 50-315/96009(DRS); 50-316/96009(DRS)

cc w/encls: A. A. Blind, Site Vice President
John Sampson, Plant Manager
James R. Padgett, Michigan Public Service Commission
Michigan Department of Public Health

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