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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Washington, D. C. 20555

**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
RESOLUTION OF THERMO-LAG ISSUES
PLA-4892 FILE R41-2**

**Docket Nos. 50-387
and 50-388**

This letter establishes our commitment to a schedule for resolution of Thermo-Lag issues and the elimination of the use of Kaowool as a fire barrier at Susquehanna SES. Our commitment is to complete all corrective actions associated with upgrading Thermo-Lag raceway fire barriers at Susquehanna SES during the Unit 1 11th Refueling and Inspection Outage (RIO), currently scheduled to begin in April of the year 2000. All physical upgrade work will be completed by the end of this outage with overall work package closeout being completed no later than the end of December of 2000.

As discussed in the May 2, 1997 meeting with the staff, we believe our schedule is justified based on the complexity of the issue at Susquehanna SES. There are over 15,000 linear feet of raceway fire barriers installed at Susquehanna SES. The extent of the installations along with the complexities associated with qualifying each specific fire barrier configuration makes resolution of this issue very difficult and time consuming. Resolution will be reached through a combination of barrier elimination through analysis, modifications to the plant equipment and cabling, and modifications and upgrades to the raceway fire barrier systems. Certain of the work required to support this project can only be performed during outages. Because of planning constraints, the next available outage window for work on Unit 1 is the 11th RIO and the Unit 2 9th RIO (March/April, 1999). Work not requiring a plant outage will be accomplished on an ongoing basis. This will result in the plant progressing toward resolution of the issue and leaving only a small percentage of actual work to be completed during the outage windows. As work proceeds, there will be decreasing reliance on compensatory measures throughout the remaining life of the project.

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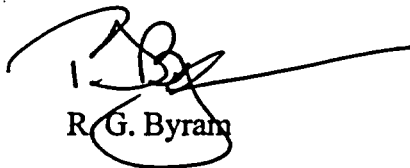
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For those raceway which can be eliminated because they are no longer required in support of Appendix R Safe Shutdown, resolution is defined as the completion of those actions necessary to eliminate reliance on fire watches as interim compensatory measures. Any discretionary work associated with removing these eliminated raceway fire barriers is not considered to be part of the schedular commitment being made in this letter.

This schedule is highly dependent upon NRC staff approval of the currently proposed Susquehanna SES shutdown methodology and the outcome of the recent Fire Protection Functional Inspection. Because the planning and scheduling associated with the Unit 2 9th RIO is currently ongoing, any changes have the potential of significantly impacting Unit 2 outage work. We, therefore, request prompt staff attention be given to resolution of these issues and reserve the right to change the proposed schedule based upon any resulting impacts.

Should you have further questions, please contact Mr. William W. Williams at 610-774-7742.

Sincerely,



R. G. Byram

copy: NRC Region I
Mr. K. M. Jenison, NRC Resident Inspector
Mr. V. Nerses, NRC Sr. Project Manager