

April 28, 2011

EA-11-032

Mr. Timothy S. Rausch
Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
769 Salem Boulevard
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

SUBJECT: FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION FOR A SECURITY-RELATED
GREATER THAN GREEN FINDING AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION [NRC
INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 05000387/2011404; 05000388/2011404] –
SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION

Dear Mr. Rausch:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the final significance determination for a finding preliminarily determined to be of at least low to moderate security significance (greater than Green). The finding was identified during a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) security baseline inspection conducted at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (Susquehanna) from February 7 - 11, 2011, and was presented at an exit meeting held on February 11, 2011. The finding was discussed in detail in NRC Inspection Report Nos. 05000387/2011403 and 05000388/2011403, issued on March 28, 2011 (ADAMS Accession No. ML110871605¹). We note that PPL Susquehanna, LLC (PPL) took immediate corrective actions to address any security-related vulnerability associated with this finding before the inspectors left the site. The nature of security-related findings is considered sensitive information and is not included in this letter, but is described in the non-public enclosure.

Our March 28, 2011, letter also offered PPL the opportunity to attend a Regulatory Conference or reply in writing to provide its position on the facts and assumptions the NRC used to arrive at the finding and its security significance. On March 31, 2011, Mr. Silas Kennedy of my office spoke with Mr. John Petrilla, Susquehanna Acting Manager, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs, who informed the NRC that PPL declined the opportunity to submit a written response or attend a Regulatory Conference.

When separated from its Enclosure, this document is DECONTROLLED.
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¹ Designation in parentheses refers to an Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) accession number. Documents referenced in this letter are publicly-available using the accession number in ADAMS.

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After considering the information developed during the inspection, the NRC has determined that the inspection finding is of at least low to moderate security significance, is appropriately characterized as greater than Green, and will require additional NRC inspections. Note, according to NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0609, Attachment 2, appeal rights only apply to those licensees that have either attended a Regulatory Conference or submitted a written response to the preliminary determination letter.

The NRC has also determined that the condition is a violation of NRC regulations, as cited in the attached Notice of Violation (Notice, Enclosure 1). In accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy, the Notice is considered an escalated enforcement action because it is associated with a greater than Green finding.

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned, and the date when full compliance was achieved is already adequately addressed on the docket in Inspection Report Nos. 05000387/2011403 and 05000388/2011403. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless the description therein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. If you choose to respond, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response.

Because plant performance has been determined to be beyond the licensee response column, we will use the NRC's Security Action Matrix to determine the most appropriate NRC response for this event. We will notify you, by separate correspondence, of that determination.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room located at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD, and from the NRC's document system, the Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. However, the material enclosed herewith contains Security-Related Information in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1), and its disclosure to unauthorized individuals could present a security vulnerability. Therefore, the material in the enclosure will not be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. If Security-Related Information is necessary to provide an acceptable response, please follow the instructions for withholding in 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1).

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1)(ii), the NRC is waiving the affidavit requirements for your response. You may contact James Trapp of my staff at 610-337-5186, with any questions.

Sincerely,

/ RA /

William M. Dean
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos. 50-387; 50-388
License Nos. NPF-14; NPF-22

Enclosure:
Notice of Violation (non-public)

cc w/encl; w/OUO-SRI:
J. Murtin, Security Manager
D. Allard, SLO, PA DEP

cc w/o encl; w/o OUO-SRI: Distribution via ListServ

T. Rausch

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