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Mr. Boyce H. Grier, Director  
Region I  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION  
IE BULLETIN 79-26 REVISION 1  
ER 100450                      FILE 842-3  
PLA-623

DOCKET NOS. 50-387  
AND 50-388

Dear Mr. Grier:

The following information is provided in response to IE Bulletin 79-26, Revision 1, "Boron Loss From BWR Control Blades."

IE Bulletin actions to be taken:

1. The exposure history averaged over the upper one-fourth quarter of each control blade will be recorded and updated on a continual basis. Depletion of B<sup>10</sup> in each blade will be determined using this data.
2. Individual control blades will be scheduled for replacement prior to exceeding a limit of 34 percent B<sup>10</sup> depletion averaged over the upper one-fourth of the blade, as predicted by the records maintained in (1) above. If a control rod cannot be replaced as scheduled, PP&L will provide NRC with justification for continued operation prior to exceeding the 34 percent B<sup>10</sup> limit.
3. Shutdown margin tests will be conducted as required by SSES Technical Specifications. The shutdown margin procedures used will be modified to reflect an appropriate increment of reactivity due to boron loss if operation in excess of the B<sup>10</sup> depletion limit specified is anticipated.
4. Taking into consideration control rod shuffling to equally distribute control blade exposure and the current SSES fuel cycle, no control blades would be expected to exceed the 34 percent B<sup>10</sup> depletion limit until several years after Unit 1 commences commercial operation. Therefore, PP&L

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does not plan to perform a destructive examination of any control blades since it is unlikely that this would significantly contribute to the data available by that time. PP&L will continue to assess GE's recommendations on control rod exposure limits as new technical data on boron loss becomes available.

Very truly yours,



N. W. Curtis

Vice President-Engineering & Construction-Nuclear

RMH/mks

cc: Director  
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