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NORMAN W. CURTIS  
Vice President-Engineering & Construction  
821-5381

August 8, 1979

Mr. Boyce H. Grier  
Director, Region I  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 17406

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION  
UPDATE OF STATUS  
CIRCLE SEAL SOLENOID VALVES WITH  
DEFECTIVE DIODES  
ERS 100450/100508      FILE 840-4  
PLA-389

Dear Mr. Grier:

This supplements and amends PP&L's position as presented in PLA-376, dated June 28, 1979; PLA-361, dated May 22, 1979; and PLA-336, dated March 23, 1979. The referenced correspondence identified a deficiency which was considered to be reportable under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.55(e).

However, PP&L has analyzed Bechtel MCAR-1-31 which documented the deficiency and Bechtel's final evaluation of the Circle Seal valves and their impact on safety and, based upon the rationale and analysis of safety implications, concludes that the condition is not reportable under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.55(e).

We arrive at this conclusion because the present approved Susquehanna design does not provide for the use of Circle Seal Pilot Solenoid Valves in any location where the failure of the subject diodes on these valves could have caused or led to the disablement of a safety system necessary for safe operation or shut down of the plant.

PP&L and Bechtel shared a concern regarding the possibility that future system designs or modifications could have inadvertently resulted in the utilization of the suspect Circle Seal solenoid valves which were being held in inventory. Therefore, PP&L directed Bechtel to return all such valves, both Q and non-Q, to Circle Seal for replacement of the existing diodes with a higher quality diode manufactured by Semtech Corporation.

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We review this action as conservative, with the expressed intent of avoiding any possibility of introducing valves with inadequate diodes into safety systems.

Very truly yours,



N. W. Curtis  
Vice President-Engineering & Construction

ARS:mcb

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