

CATEGORY 2

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FACIL: 50-387 Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 1, Pennsylv 05000387
50-388 Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 2, Pennsylv 05000388
AUTH. NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
PASCIAK, W.J. Region 1 (Post 820201)
RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
BYRAM, R.G. Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.

SUBJECT: Forwards insp repts 50-387/96-10 & 50-388/96-10 on 960910-1021 & notice of violation.

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November 12, 1996

Mr. Robert G. Byram
Senior Vice President - Nuclear
Pennsylvania Power & Light Company
2 North Ninth Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-387/96-10, 50-388/96-10; AND
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Byram:

This refers to the inspection conducted from September 10 through October 21, 1996, at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station 1 & 2 reactor facilities. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely, in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with members of your staff.

During the six week period covered by this inspection, your staff's conduct of activities was generally characterized by safe operation and conservative decision making. Unit 1 refueling and post-outage restart activities were well controlled and conducted by operations. An exception to your good maintenance practices was identified during control rod drive replacements. Unit 2 operations were performed well including response to the unexpected closure of a turbine combined intercept valve.

In the area of plant support, we found that you continued to maintain an effective radiological controls program. This was evidenced by your extensive planning and effective implementation of radiological controls for outage work.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that violations of NRC requirements occurred. The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice), and the circumstances surrounding them are described in detail in the subject inspection report. One violation involved the partial disassembly of the wrong control rod drive assembly under the unit 1 reactor vessel. This violation is of concern because it should have been prevented by your corrective action for weaknesses in the control rod drive replacement activities identified by the NRC just prior to the event. The error constituted a significant increase in risk of draining the reactor vessel and/or having an uncontrolled local reactivity addition. Another violation involved multiple examples of the failure to properly post and barricade high radiation areas in your units. This violation is of concern due to the repetitive nature of these events, and the ineffectiveness of previous corrective actions.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document

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the specific actions taken, and any additional actions you plan, to prevent recurrence. 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, its enclosure(s), and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Walter J. Pasciak, Chief
Projects Branch 4
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-387; 50-388
License No. NPF-14, NPF-22

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report

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cc w/encl:

G. T. Jones, Vice President - Nuclear Engineering

G. Kuczynski, Plant Manager

J. M. Kenny, Supervisor, Nuclear Licensing

G. D. Miller, Manager - Nuclear Engineering

R. R. Wehry, Nuclear Licensing

M. M. Urioste, Nuclear Services Manager, General Electric

C. D. Lopes, Manager - Nuclear Security

W. Burchill, Manager, Nuclear Safety Assessment

H. D. Woodeshick, Special Office of the President

J. C. Tilton, III, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. Robert G. Byram

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