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AUTH. NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
JONES, G.T. Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.
RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
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SUBJECT: Provides follow-up response to 120 day GL 96-06 re
containment penetration overpressurization.

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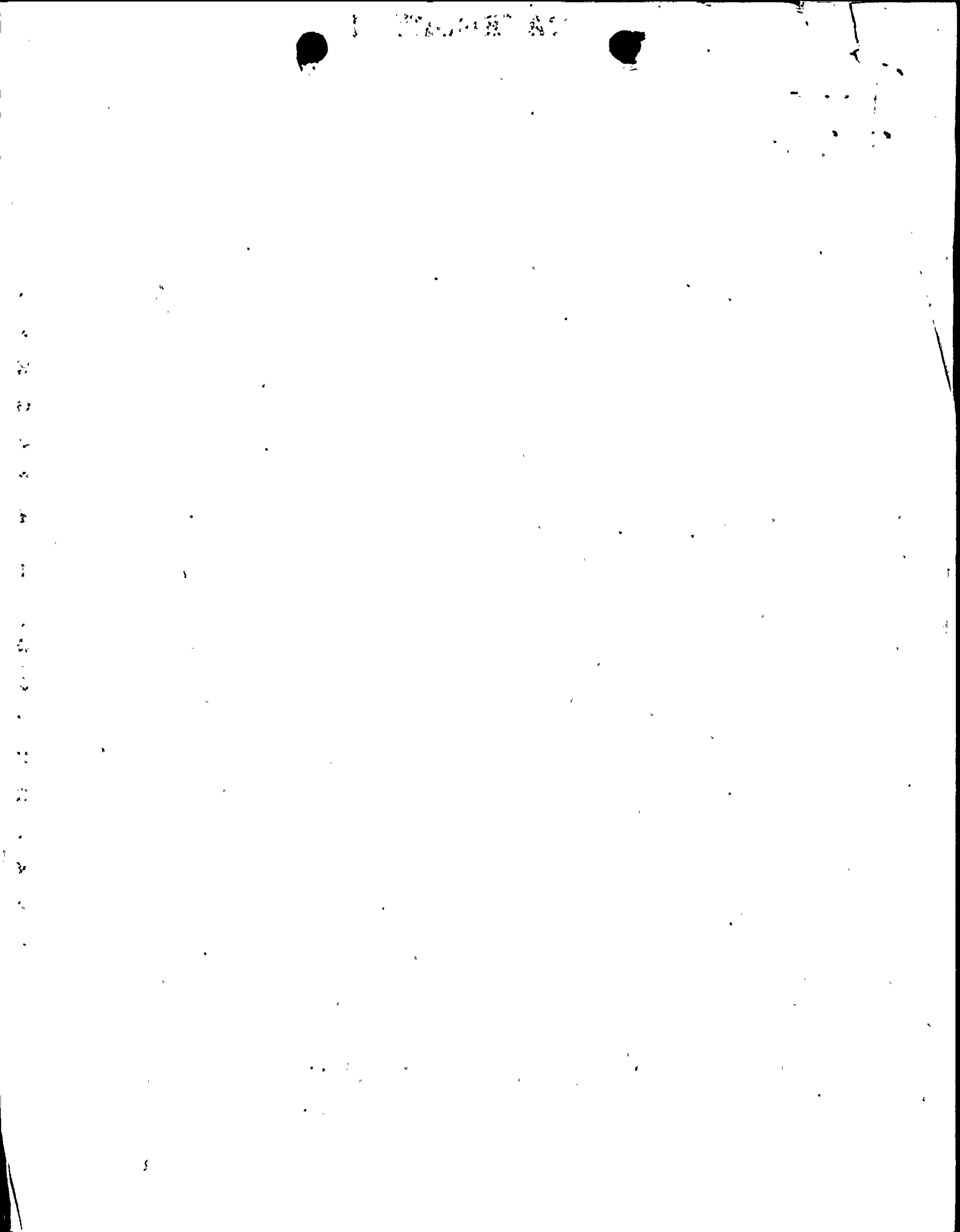
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Pennsylvania Power & Light Company

Two North Ninth Street • Allentown, PA 18101-1179 • 610/774-5151

George T. Jones
Vice President - Nuclear Operations
610/774-7602
Fax: 610/774-7797

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
FOLLOW-UP RESPONSE TO THE 120 DAY
GENERIC LETTER 96-06 RESPONSE
PLA-4636**

FILE R41-2

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

Ref.: PLA-4551, R. G. Byram to USNRC, "120 Day Response to Generic Letter 96-06," dated January 29, 1997.

The purpose of this letter is to provide a follow-up response to a commitment identified in PP&L's 120 day response to Generic Letter 96-06 (Referenced). Specifically, in that response, PP&L stated that the corrective action determination concerning containment penetration overpressurization would be completed by June 1997, and the results provided to the NRC.

In response to ongoing industry discussions, PP&L has chosen to pursue two parallel resolution paths for this concern.

- 1. Containment Penetration Modifications:** PP&L has initiated engineering efforts to evaluate the new overpressure design requirements for susceptible containment penetrations. These engineering efforts are intended to support a contingent implementation during the Unit 2 9th and the Unit 1 11th refueling and inspection outages (Spring 1999 and Spring 2000 respectively), should the modifications be necessary. This resolution path will require approval of changes to the Technical Specifications in support of the above outages. This is a revision to the original schedule identified in the referenced letter.
- 2. Participate in Ongoing Industry Efforts to Resolve the Code Interpretation Aspects of Containment Penetration Modifications:** PP&L understands that NRC currently believes that modifications are required for compliance in accordance with the ASME Code. However, PP&L's interpretation of the code as applied to our design and licensing basis, is that our existing design meets the code requirements and maintains a proper level of nuclear safety margin. Therefore, PP&L is pursuing this path by monitoring ongoing industry efforts to resolve the code interpretation aspects of containment penetration modifications.

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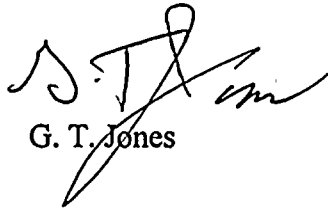


PP&L will notify the NRC if it is determined that modifications, pursuant to the identified schedule, will not be implemented.

The referenced 120 day response also stated that an evaluation to assess a small hydraulic transient during the restoration of drywell cooling was scheduled to be completed in June 1997. However, as a result of unanticipated medical considerations of personnel, this evaluation will now be completed in July 1997. The preliminary conclusions as to the potential impacts of this transient which are identified in the 120 day response none-the-less remain valid.

Questions concerning this response should be directed to R. D. Kichline at (610) 774-7705.

Very truly yours



G. T. Jones

copy: NRC Region I
Mr. K. Jenison, NRC Sr. Resident Inspector
Mr. C. Poslusny, NRC Sr. Project Manager