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

SUBJECT: Forwards insp repts 50-387/98-01 & 50-388/98-01 on  
 980120-0316.Three apparent violations noted & being  
 considered for escalated enforcement actions.Open  
 predecisional enforcement conference scheduled for 980505.

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DRO

April 9, 1998

EA Nos. 98-140  
98-193

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

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-387/98-01, 50-388/98-01

Dear Mr. Byram:

On March 16, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at your Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) 1 & 2 reactor facilities. The inspections covered routine activities by the resident inspectors, an announced inspection by a Region I Operations Engineer, and an announced inspection by a Region I Radiation Specialist. The enclosed report presents the results of these inspections. The inspectors discussed the findings of these inspections with Mr. G. Jones, Vice President Nuclear Operations, Mr. G. Kuczynski, General Manager SSES, and others of your staff, at exit meetings at the completion of each individual inspection period.

During the 8-week period of inspection, your conduct of activities was characterized by safe operation and generally conservative decision making. The operator licensing inspection concluded SSES's licensed operator re-qualification program was satisfactory overall. In the area of plant support, the inspector found that you continued to maintain an effective radiological controls program. Although as-low-as-reasonably-achievable (ALARA) initiatives to minimize the radiological impact of hydrogen water chemistry (HWC) appeared comprehensive, continued vigilance to assess and mitigate the radiological impact of HWC is warranted.

Based on the results of this inspection, three apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. These violations involve the preconditioning of the Unit 1 standby liquid control system (SLCS) prior to Technical Specification surveillance testing, the adequacy of maintenance procedures associated with the SLCS accumulator charging valve caps, and the adequacy of PP&L corrective action for depressurized SLCS accumulators identified in 1995 and 1996. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

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PDR ADOCK 05000387  
Q PDR

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Mr. Robert G. Byram

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An open predecisional enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations has been scheduled for May 5, 1998. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. As such, we expect you to address the Technical Specification, Final Safety Analysis Report, and Anticipate Transient Without Scram (ATWS) bases for the SLCS and whether or not you would have met those bases during the periods of interest. Your discussion of the SLCS should include the specific nature and degree of the SLCS degraded condition. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on 1) the severity of the violations, 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

*original signed by:*

Charles W. Hehl, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosures:

1. Inspection Report 50-387/98-01, 50-388/98-01
2. Enforcement Policy: Section V, "Predecisional Enforcement Conferences"

Mr. Robert G. Byram

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cc w/encl:

G. T. Jones, Vice President - Nuclear Operations

G. J. Kuczynski, General Manager

J. M. Kenny, Supervisor, Nuclear Licensing

G. D. Miller, General Manager - Nuclear Engineering

R. R. Wehry, Nuclear Licensing

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Mr. Robert G. Byram

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