

CATEGORY 1

REGULATORY INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (RIDS)

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 BYRAM, R.G. Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.
 RECIPIENT NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
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SUBJECT: Confirms that strainer & insulation mods have been completed & declared operational per 980424 RAI re NRC Bulletin 96-003, "Potential Plugging of ECC Suction Strainers by Debris in BWRs."

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NOTES: 05000387

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**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
BULLETIN 96-03 - 30 DAY CONFIRMATION OF
UNIT 1 SUCTION STRAINER INSTALLATION
PLA-4923**

Docket No. 50-387

- References:
1. NRC Bulletin 96-03, "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling Water Reactors," dated May 6, 1996.
 2. PLA-4880, R. G. Byram to USNRC, "Request for NRC Response to Additional Information Regarding Bulletin 96-03: Potential Plugging of ECCS Suction Strainers," dated April 24, 1998.

NRC Bulletin 96-03 (Ref. 1) requests licensees to provide, in part, a report confirming completion of all requested actions, and summarizing any actions taken. The purpose of this letter is to confirm that strainer and insulation modifications have been completed and declared operational on Susquehanna Unit 1 consistent with the description provided in Reference 2.

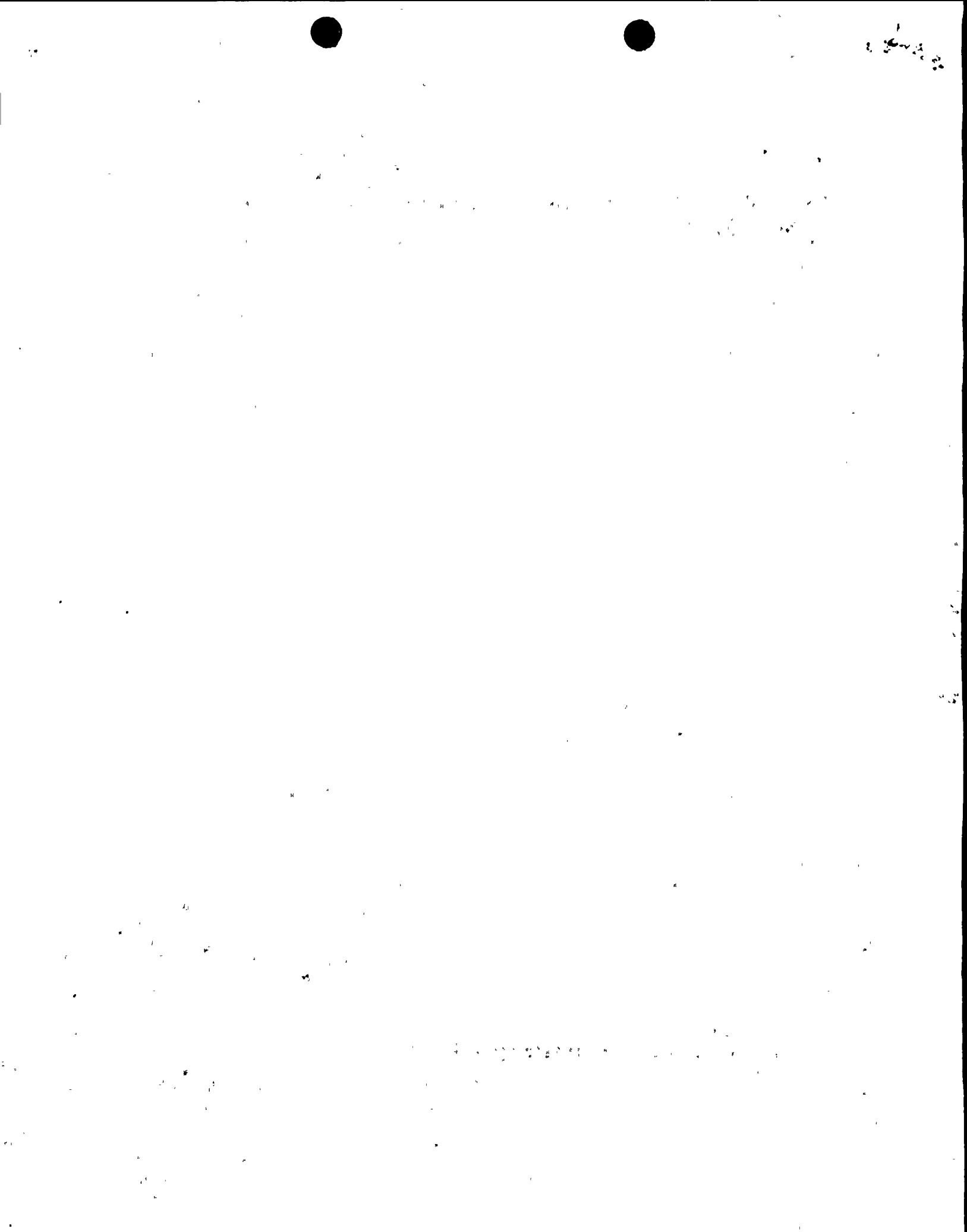
In addition to the installation of high capacity, passive, stacked disk suppression pool suction strainers on the Residual Heat Removal and Core Spray Systems, the following actions were also completed during the Unit 1 10th Refueling Outage:

- Minimized the potential fibrous insulation source term in the drywell by replacing remaining NUKON fibrous insulation with reflective metallic insulation where possible. In addition, Koolphen phenolic foam insulation having an aluminized paper vapor barrier was replaced with Koolphen insulation without the paper vapor barrier.
- Performed water and sludge sampling, and inspected the strainers for the presence of fiber.
- Reviewed programmatic controls to ensure any further introductions of potential debris sources are limited and evaluated.
- Conducted twice - daily walkdowns of the drywell and suppression pool for the presence of foreign material during periods of containment access.

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- Conducted a walkdown of the drywell to remove fixed debris sources (non metallic tags, stickers, etc.) where possible.
- Installed temporary covers on downcomers to provide additional assurance that debris would not be introduced into the suppression pool during the outage. The covers were removed prior to startup.
- Utilized fittings to provide positive protection against introducing foreign material (e.g. hoses) into the suppression pool during draining evolutions.
- Walked down Min-K insulation sites where possible. These Walkdowns established that Min-K will have less of an impact on strainer blockage than previously believed. This information will be factored into our final evaluation of strainer performance.
- Performed suppression pool cleaning and inspection activities. This included desludging, filtering, and inspection for and removal of foreign material by divers.
- After installation of the new strainers, ran multiple RHR pumps for extended periods to achieve sufficient agitation such that any fibers or other sufficiently buoyant debris in the pool would be suspended and drawn onto the strainers. For both fiber and other debris, the results were well within acceptance criteria.

As discussed in Reference 2, a number of ongoing NRC/industry issue reviews require resolution in order for PP&L to demonstrate final compliance with all of the bulletin requested actions. Therefore, within 30 days of the availability of the final regulatory basis for Bulletin 96-03 compliance, PP&L will submit a letter to the NRC that provides PP&L's plan and schedule for demonstrating compliance with that basis.

Any questions on this response should be directed to Mr. R. R. Sgarro at (610) 774-7552.

Sincerely,



R. G. Bykam

copy: NRC Region I
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