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 AUTH. NAME      AUTHOR AFFILIATION  
 MILLER, H. J.      Region 1 (Post 820201)  
 RECIP. NAME      RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
 BYRAM, R. G.      Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.

SUBJECT: Informs of completion of review of investigation conducted by OI re performance of "Offgoing Plant Control Operator Checklist" at SSES. Licensee not cited for violation since escalated EA has been taken to address fundamental problem.

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I  
475 ALLENDALE ROAD  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415

August 26, 1998

EA 98-193

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

Dear Mr. Byram:

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF INVESTIGATION REPORT NO. 1-97-048

On July 1, 1998, the NRC Office of Investigations (OI) completed its review of an investigation it conducted concerning performance of a "Offgoing Plant Control Operator (PCO) Checklist" at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES). Previously, you conducted an investigation at SSES and found that prior to August 30, 1996, there were occasions that a licensed Reactor Operator did not perform the test of control room annunciators, yet signed the PCO turnover sheets indicating the test was completed. The NRC has concluded that the individual's actions to create false turnover sheets were willful. The synopsis of the OI investigation report is enclosed.

At about the time the false documents were created, other events occurred at SSES involving licensed and non-licensed operators not reasonably completing certain required activities, yet completing records to indicate that the activities were completed. As a result, SSES was issued a significant civil penalty (\$160,000 of an overall \$210,000 penalty) on June 20, 1997, for these widespread occurrences. The findings of OI Report No. 1-97-048 represent additional instances of this problem during a time when there was a significant lack of management and supervisory attention to assuring that expectations for completion and documentation of work activities were clearly understood and followed. Since escalated enforcement action has been taken to address the fundamental performance problem and you identified the violation, the NRC decided not to cite you for this violation, as noted in Section E2.4 of Inspection Report 50-387; 388/98-01. 1/6

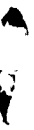
In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790, a copy of this letter will be placed in the PDR.

If you have any questions or comments on this matter, please contact Mr. Clifford Anderson at 610-337-5227. Ie54

Sincerely,

Hubert J. Miller  
Regional Administrator

9809020128 980826  
PDR ADDCK 05000387  
Q PDR



Robert G. Byram

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Enclosure: Synopsis of OI Report

Docket Nos. 50-387;50-388

cc w/encl:

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Robert G. Byram

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was initiated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Investigations (OI), Region I (RI), on November 20, 1997, to determine whether a Plant Control Operator (PCO) at Pennsylvania Power and Light Company's (PP&L) Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES), falsified a PCO Turnover Sheet entitled, "Offgoing Plant Control Operator Checklist."

Based on the evidence developed during the investigation, it is concluded that the PCO willfully created false Turnover Sheets, which were maintained by SSES.



