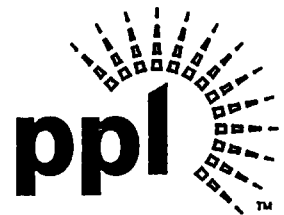


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Generation and Chief Nuclear Officer
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MAY 27 1999

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn.: Document Control Center
Mail Stop P1-137
Washington, D.C. 20555

**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
CLOSURE OF NRC BULLETIN 96-03:
ECCS SUCTION STRAINERS
PLA-5071**

Docket Nos. 50-387
and 50-388

- References: 1. PLA-4923, R. G. Byram to USNRC, "Bulletin 96-03 - 30 Day Confirmation of Unit 1 Suction Strainer Installation," dated June 22, 1998.
2. PLA-5038, R. G. Byram to USNRC, "Bulletin 96-03 Status Update," dated March 12, 1999.

The purpose of this letter is to provide confirmation of PP&L, Inc. (PP&L) actions to close NRC Bulletin 96-03, "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling-Water Reactors."

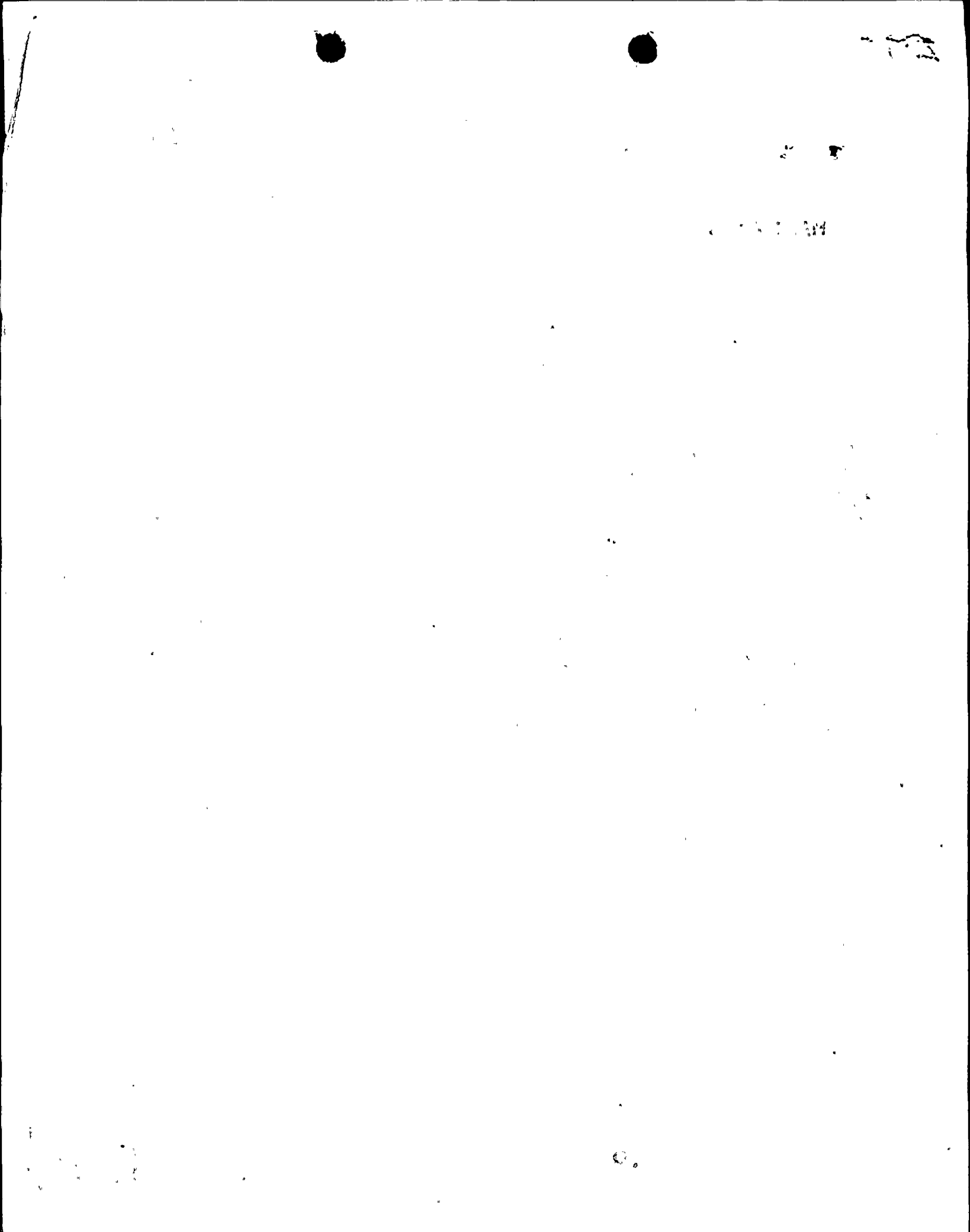
Via Reference 1, PP&L previously confirmed installation of Susquehanna SES Unit 1 ECCS strainer modifications consistent with our commitments made in response to Bulletin 96-03. Similar modifications were recently completed on Susquehanna SES Unit 2 during its ninth refueling and inspection outage.

As discussed in Reference 2, PP&L completed confirmatory performance testing of the strainer design earlier this year. Final review of the test results has confirmed that the strainers installed on Susquehanna Units 1 & 2 are adequately sized to address the concerns identified in NRC Bulletin 96-03. Based on this conclusion, PP&L is proceeding to implement the revised design basis for the ECCS strainers and to update the FSAR in accordance with 10CFR50.71 requirements.

We have identified that a section of Min-K insulation that was not considered in the strainer design debris source term is present in the containments of both units. Our evaluation of this condition under our corrective action program has determined that while the design margin in the source term has been impacted, the new strainers installed on both units remain operable. This material will be removed and/or replaced no later than the next refueling outage on each unit.

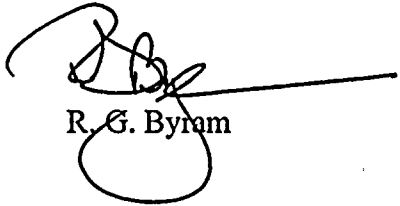
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Based on the above, this letter constitutes PP&L's final response to Bulletin 96-03 for Susquehanna SES. Questions on this submittal should be directed to Mr. R. R. Sgarro at (610) 774-7552.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. G. Byram', is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the name 'R. G. Byram' is printed in a standard font.

Copy: NRC Region I

Mr. V. Nerses, NRC SR. Project Manager – OWFN
Mr. S. Hansell, NRC SR. Resident Inspector – SSES
Mr. D. J. Allard, PA DEP

