



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

April 12, 1999

Mr. R. P. Powers
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Group
American Electric Power Company
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, MI 49107-1395

SUBJECT: RESCHEDULING OF THE DISCOVERY PHASE VALIDATION INSPECTION

Dear Mr. Powers:

This letter is to inform you of the rescheduling of the NRC Discovery Phase Validation Inspection. As previously documented in the Plant Performance Review letter dated March 26, 1999, the NRC planned to conduct the Discovery Phase Validation Inspection at the D. C. Cook plant from April 12 through May 14, 1999. The purpose of this inspection is to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Phase 1 Expanded System Readiness Review (ESRR) effort. Phase 1 was initially scheduled to be completed in early April 1999. On April 5, 1999, we were notified by your staff that the completion of Phase 1 of the ongoing ESRR has been delayed to late May 1999.

We understand that this slippage in the ESRR program schedule was due in large part to your emphasis on quality. To accommodate this schedule change and ensure that our inspection is effective, we have delayed the start of the Discovery Phase Validation Inspection until May 17, 1999. This inspection schedular change is consistent with your current schedule for completion of the System Readiness Review Board review of the Phase 1 ESRRs. If any other schedule changes occur, we request that you inform us as soon as possible, so that we can accommodate those changes. We will continue to monitor your discovery phase activities and take other actions, if necessary, to ensure adequate and timely oversight of activities at the D. C. Cook plant.

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

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If you have any questions regarding the NRC actions discussed above, please contact Anton Vogel at 630/829-9620 or me at 630/829-9700.

Sincerely,

/s/ J. A. Grobe

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-315; 50-316
License Nos. DPR-58; DPR-74

cc: M. Rencheck, Vice President, Nuclear Engineering
D. Cooper, Plant Manager
R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
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