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SUBJECT: Informs that implementation schedule of severe accident mgt will be delayed until 980401 at Cook Nuclear Plant.

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April 8, 1997

AEP:NRC:1082M

Docket Nos.: 50-315
50-316

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2
SEVERE ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT
REVISED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

In a previous letter to the NRC, designated AEP:NRC:1082L and dated March 27, 1995, we stated that we intended to complete our assessment of severe accident management capabilities and make any identified enhancements by July 1, 1997.

At this time, we are writing to inform you that implementation at Cook Nuclear Plant will be delayed until April 1, 1998.

A Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) workshop was recently held that provided valuable feedback for implementation of the severe accident management guidelines. The Westinghouse Owners Group is also developing a generic drill scenario that will not be completed until the fall of 1997. We want to include this additional intelligence in our program.

Cook Nuclear Plant unit 1 is currently in a refueling outage that began on March 1, and is estimated to be completed in mid-April. In September, unit 2 will be refueled. This dual outage year presents an exceptional challenge to plant personnel resources. Our implementation plan for severe accident management includes completing the accident response guidelines, training, and drilling a large number of plant personnel. The time period following the unit 2 outage, up to our new implementation date of April 1, 1998, will allow us to complete this effort more effectively.

It is still our intent to implement the formal industry position on severe accident management. This severe accident management position was approved by the NEI's nuclear strategic issues advisory committee. That formal position, previously communicated in a letter dated November 21, 1994, from NEI to the director, office of nuclear reactor regulation, states that:

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"Each Licensee will:

Assess current capabilities to respond to severe accident conditions using Section 5 of NEI 91-04, Revision 1, 'Severe Accident Issued Closure Guidelines.'

Implement appropriate improvements identified in the assessment, within the constraints of existing personnel and hardware, on a schedule to be determined by each licensee and communicated to the NRC, but in any event no later than December 31, 1998."

Sincerely,



E. E. Fitzpatrick
Vice President

vlb

cc: A. A. Blind
A. B. Beach
MDEQ - DW & RPD
NRC Resident Inspector
J. R. Padgett