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 50-316. Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 2, Indiana M 05000316

AUTH. NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 GROBE, J.A. Region 3 (Post 820201)
 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 POWERS, R.P. American Electric Power Co., Inc.

SUBJECT: Discusses OI rept 2-97-029 with assigned insp repts
 50-315/98-29 & 50-316/98-29 conducted on 971121-980909 &
 forwards notice of violation re unauthorized activities in
 control room. Investigation rept synopsis also encl.

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December 24, 1998

EA 98-539

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

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION (NRC SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORTS
50-315/98029(DRS); 50-316/98029(DRS) AND INVESTIGATION REPORT
2-97-029)

Dear Mr. Powers:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Office of Investigations (OI) conducted an investigation into potentially inappropriate activities being conducted in the D.C. Cook control room. A copy of the OI report synopsis is enclosed. An inspection report number was assigned only for NRC tracking purposes, an inspection report is not enclosed. This issue was discussed with Mr. Sampson, Site Vice President, during an exit telephone conference on December 8, 1998.

Following notification by the NRC and in parallel with the NRC investigation, you began an investigation into this matter and identified that numerous non-job related telephone calls were made from the control room. For example, during the period August 31, 1997, to December 31, 1997, 123 telephone calls were made from the front area of the D.C. Cook control room to a sports and information telephone hotline with the majority of the calls occurring during the weekends between mid-morning and late-evening. Access to this area of the control room is controlled by licensed operators. Your investigation concluded there was no compromise of plant operation, plant nuclear safety, and performance of duties. This conclusion is based on the fact that no operator errors were identified to occur concurrent with periods of telephone calls. However, you took certain corrective actions for this issue by curtailing extraneous telephone usage by operations department personnel, by modifying plant operating procedures to explicitly identify extraneous telephone use as a potentially distracting activity, and by emphasizing operations management oversight. In addition, you provided the results of your investigation to the NRC upon completion.

We have reviewed your investigation results. Based on that investigation and our own, we have determined that this event did not involve a deliberate violation of station operating procedures. Although we agree with your conclusion that no safety compromise actually occurred, we feel that conclusion was narrowly focused. We expect licensed operators at the controls to be attentive to plant indications at all times in order to provide early recognition of plant status changes. Your procedure OHI-4013, "Operators: Authorities and Responsibilities," Revision 9,

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PDR ADOCK 05000315
G PDR

dated 5/17/96, states in paragraph 3.3.2, "Potentially distracting activities in the control room and other watch stations must be prohibited. These activities include, but are not limited to, reading non-job related materials, listening to radios, and watching television." The numerous non-job related telephone calls from the control room did represent a distracting activity with some safety significance and showed that operators were not entirely focused on reactor safety.

Based on the results of this investigation, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding it are described above. The violation is of concern because it was identified by the NRC, involved unauthorized activities in the control room, and demonstrated a lack of management oversight.

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed in this letter. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless the description herein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide additional information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice.

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

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Steven A. Reynolds (for)

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

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

- Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
- 2. OI Report Synopsis

See Attached Distribution

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R. Powers

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cc w/encs: J. Sampson, Site Vice President
R. Eckstein, Chief Nuclear Engineer
D. Cooper, Plant Manager
R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Emergency Management Division
MI Department of State Police
D. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists

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