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 NOVAK, T. Assistant Director for Licensing

SUBJECT: Discusses final results of addl test of adequacy of design process. Audit to verify test results confirms design adequacy.

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MAR 16 1983

Mr. Thomas Novak  
Assistant Director for Licensing  
Division of Licensing  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION  
UNIT 2 DESIGN REVIEWS  
ER 100450 FILE 841-2  
PLA-1557

Docket Nos. 50-387  
50-388

Dear Mr. Novak:

Prior to Licensing of Susquehanna Unit 1, NRC asked PP&L to consider an additional test of the adequacy of the design process used on the Susquehanna Plant. The Independent Design Review Performed by Teledyne was the product of this request. The final result of this effort was very favorable and confirmed our confidence in the design process. Since we are nearing completion of Unit 2, we are anticipating similar concerns from NRC.

Certain aspects of Unit 2 support our confidence in the basic design process. The designs of both units are essentially identical. The design process applied to Unit 2 is the same as that applied on Unit 1 incorporating improvements made as a result of lessons learned on Unit 1. Since completion of Unit 2 follows Unit 1 so closely, we have been able to maintain continuity of engineering personnel and do not expect to have any substantive differences in the design process. This has been verified by audits common to both units. For the above reasons, we believe the conclusions reached on the adequacy of the Unit 1 design process apply to Unit 2.

In addition, several other recent audits and reviews of Unit 2 activities provide confirmation of Unit 2 design adequacy. The first of these is a Self-Initiated Evaluation of Unit 2 performed by PP&L utilizing the INPO Performance Objectives and Criteria for Project Evaluations (September, 1982). In the area of design control, this evaluation concluded that the program had no significant deficiencies and met the requirements of 10CFR50, Appendix B.

Unit 2 is nearly complete and is one of the NTOL plants. Since INPO is excluding NTOL plants from their proposed construction audit program, we expect no additional audits of this type at Susquehanna.

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SSES PLA-1557  
ER 100450 File 841-2  
Mr. Thomas Novak

In January, 1983, a Technical Audit of the SSES Unit II Small Pipe Hanger Program was conducted by the PP&L Nuclear Plant Engineering Mechanical Group in cooperation with PP&L Nuclear Quality Assurance. The findings and observations were documented in an NQA audit report. The purpose of the audit was to evaluate the effectiveness of the Bechtel Field Engineering Program in designing small pipe supports. The audit team found no indications of substantive deficiencies in the program. In addition, they concluded that the field design activities are reasonably effective in assuring that pipe support design requirements are satisfied.

In addition, the NPE Mechanical Group conducted a site review of large pipe supports for SSES Unit II in January, 1983. The review was intended to identify significant changes made in the hanger program by Field Engineering and to determine if these changes and the lessons learned from the Independent Design Review are in place and being followed. The reviewers concluded that the programmatic improvements had been implemented in the field.

These audits and reviews are consistent with and reinforce the results of the previous technical reviews and audits performed on Susquehanna over the years. As a result we believe the Unit 2 design process is adequate, and the systems installed in Unit 2 meet all design requirements. Consequently, we plan no additional independent design reviews on Unit 2.

If you have any additional questions, please call.

Very truly yours,



N. W. Curtis

Vice President-Engineering & Construction-Nuclear

cc: R. L. Perch - USNRC