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Richard A. Uderitz Vice President — Nuclear

January 25, 1985

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Division of Licensing  
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Mr. Steven A. Varga, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch, No. 1

Gentlemen:

PSE&G ACTION PLAN 2.6.3, REDUCING THE NUMBER OF  
BACKLOGGED MAINTENANCE WORK ITEMS  
SALEM GENERATING STATION  
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311

This letter is to notify you that we require an extension of the completion date for full implementation of PSE&G Action Plan 2.6.3, Reducing the Number of Backlogged Maintenance Work Items.

As part of the Action Plan for Improvement of Nuclear Department Operations, PSE&G committed to develop and implement an action plan to reduce the non-outage work order backlog to permit current maintenance activities to be completed in a timely, well planned manner. This action plan was to be completed by January 1985.

Under the sponsorship of the Maintenance Manager - Salem, a program was developed to reduce the work order backlog, and to identify and correct the causes of the excessive number of backlogged work orders.

The principal cause of increasing backlog levels was determined to be outages. Although reducing the number of outages and their duration was beyond the scope of this action plan, some steps were taken to accommodate this situation.

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Primarily, a procedure was developed to provide for monitoring the backlog work order level and applying resources to keep it within INPO guidelines (200 to 400 work orders). Weekly meetings led by the Maintenance Manager - Salem to resolve issues related to the backlog reduction efforts were also begun and will continue as long as is necessary.

Ten additional station maintenance personnel were hired and as many as 102 contractor personnel were obtained. (Twenty-five of the contract personnel were provided by Catalytic, Inc., our Plant Betterment and Maintenance contractor.) The combination of the new monitoring procedure and increased station and contractor personnel was able to reduce the work order backlog from a peak of 1584 in January 1984 to 341 work orders in July 1984. We subsequently reduced the number of personnel and currently have 74 contractor personnel addressing backlog work. The number of personnel will continue to be adjusted as the situation dictates.

Although the monitoring program is in place, and the number of backlog work orders was reduced to below 400 for a while, the backlog level has increased slightly above the guidelines and has remained there for several months. The two principal causes for this situation are the manpower limitations resulting from the back-to-back Salem Units 1 and 2 outages, and craft disagreements over responsibility for work on certain types of plant equipment.

While there are extenuating reasons for the backlog level increasing above the INPO guidelines, we do not feel we have achieved the desired results to complete this action plan and are not satisfied with this situation. We will, therefore, keep the action plan open until the backlogged work order level is reduced and remains consistently within INPO guidelines for several weeks.

To further ensure reducing the work order backlog to appropriate levels, we have strengthened our program by setting individual backlogged work order limits for each craft discipline and by increasing our maintenance staffing with additional contractor personnel. We will continue to strengthen our program as it is implemented.

This extended program will take approximately four months to complete; thus, we find it necessary to extend our Action Plan 2.6.3 completion date from January 31, 1985 to May 31, 1985.

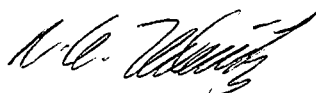
Mr. Steven A. Varga

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We will continue to keep you informed regarding the implementation status of this action plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "N.C. Whitt".

C Mr. Richard W. Starostecki, Director  
Division of Project and Resident Programs

Mr. Donald C. Fischer  
Licensing Project Manager

Mr. James Linville  
Senior Resident Inspector