



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JULY 25 1980

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Docket No. 50-278

Mr. Edward G. Bauer, Jr.
Vice President and General Counsel
Philadelphia Electric Company
2301 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

Dear Mr. Bauer:

By letter dated July 23, 1980 you requested an extension of the time limit for performing IE Bulletin 80-17 Action Item 2 scram tests for Peach Bottom Unit No. 3 until the weekend of August 9, 1980. The reason stated for the request was that, as a member of the Pennsylvania - New Jersey - Maryland (PJM) power pool, you are operating all available equipment to meet the high power demands in your region. You expect that an extension to the weekend of August 9, 1980 would permit you to operate Peach Bottom Unit No. 2 at full capacity; thus, an outage of Unit No. 3 would not cause severe effects on the power system.

Your request also indicated the measures you have taken to insure operability of the Control Rod Drive System. These include:

- (1) A surveillance test has been initiated which strokes the scram discharge volume vent and drain valves daily to verify proper operation. Valve position is verified and recorded in the surveillance log once per shift.
- (2) The operability of the three gallon limit switch in the scram discharge instrument volume tank is verified during the daily surveillance test identified in Item 1.
- (3) Procedures have been revised to provide additional instructions to the operators for a failure to scram.

By telephone discussions between members of our staff we understand that even if an extension of time were granted it is your intention to conduct the scram test on Peach Bottom Unit No. 3 as soon as practicable should power demands in your region so permit it without severe effects on the power system.

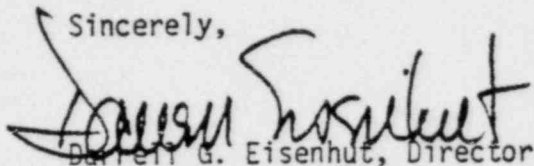
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Mr. Edward G. Bauer, Jr.

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We have reviewed your request and confirmed the existence of the critical situation concerning power generation in your region. We have determined that an extension of the time limit for performing the scram tests until the weekend of August 9, 1980 is acceptable. However, should sufficient power generation capability become available prior to August 9, 1980, you are to perform the scram tests on Peach Bottom Unit No. 3 as soon as practical.

Sincerely,



Barrett G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc:
See next page

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cc:

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