



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

JAN 05 1990

Docket No. 50-461

Illinois Power Company
ATTN: J. S. Perry
Vice President
Clinton Power Station
Mail Code V-275
P. O. Box 678
Clinton, IL 61727

Gentlemen:

Enclosed for your review, prior to our scheduled meeting of January 26, 1990, is the Initial SALP 9 Report for Clinton Power Station, covering the period September 1, 1988 through October 31, 1989.

In accordance with NRC policy, I have reviewed the SALP Board Assessment and concur with their ratings. Overall, your performance was found to be satisfactory. However, the Category 3 ratings issued in the areas of Outages and Engineering and Technical Support are indicative of significant weaknesses which should receive your careful scrutiny. Significant aspects of the report are set forth below.

Operator plant knowledge of routine operations and use of off normal procedures was a strength, although operator unfamiliarity with Technical Specification surveillances required by mode changes was a weakness. Management involvement in the Emergency Preparedness (EP) program was good as evidenced by program upgrades, participation in drills and training, and good facilities. The performance resulted in a Category 1 rating in the EP functional area. Performance in the Security functional area declined due to isolated lapses in some management controls, and equipment related problems. However, management is commended for overcoming many strike-related performance obstacles.

Weaknesses were identified in engineering support to operations, condition of balance of plant equipment, control of contractors, procedural compliance, personnel errors, root cause determination and corrective action implementation.

The Outages functional area was added to this report because Clinton Power Station was in outage conditions for 196 days of the 14 month assessment period and because your performance merited special discussion. As mentioned above, the Engineering/Technical Support and Outages functional areas were given Category 3 ratings. Please respond within 30 days after the SALP meeting to the Engineering/Technical Support and Outages weaknesses described in Sections IV.F and H of this report with the corrective actions you plan to achieve improved performance.

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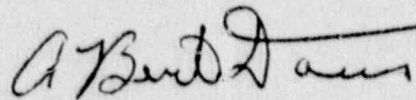
For the most part, performance was observed to be good during the beginning and end, and poor during the middle (refueling outage/EQ forced outage) of the assessment period. I am aware of some of your plans and programs to improve your performance and look forward to a detailed discussion of them in our January 9, 1990 management meeting. From our perspective, improvements will be needed in team work, communication and cooperation between all management levels and between management and the staff, procedural adherence, corrective actions, root cause determinations, engineering support to operations, plant material condition, and control of contractors.

At the SALP meeting, you should be prepared to discuss our assessments and your plans to improve performance. The meeting is intended to be a candid dialogue wherein any comments you may have regarding our report are discussed. You may provide written comments in addition to those required by this letter within 30 days after the meeting. Your comments, a summary of our meeting, and my disposition of your comments will be issued as the Final SALP Report.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the Initial SALP Report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning the Initial SALP Report, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



A. Bert Davis
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Initial SALP 9
Report No. 50-461/89001

cc w/enclosure:

J. Cook, Manager, Clinton Power Station

F. Spangenberg, III, Manager -
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DCD/DCB (RIDS)

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Resident Inspector, RIII

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