

DCR

MAR 12 1990

The Detroit Edison Company  
ATTN: B. Ralph Sylvia  
Senior Vice President  
Nuclear Operations  
6400 North Dixie Highway  
Newport, MI 48166

Gentlemen:

Enclosed for your review, prior to our scheduled meeting of March 27, 1990, is the Initial SALP 11 Report for the Fermi 2 Nuclear Plant, covering the period January 1, 1989 through December 31, 1989.

In accordance with NRC policy, I have reviewed the SALP Board Assessment and concur with its ratings. It is my view that your conduct of nuclear activities in connection with the Fermi facility was adequate. Performance generally was better compared to the previous SALP period, although problems which surfaced during the outage demonstrate that some underlying communication, coordination, and plant system knowledge problems remain and warrant management's continued attention. Specific areas I would like to highlight are:

1. The Board conducted an in-depth assessment of the Maintenance/Surveillance area. There were several strengths in this functional area including improved maintenance procedures, increased management involvement, a reduction in the number of engineered safeguards actuations, and the implementation near the end of the assessment period of your Accountability Action Plan. On the other hand, there were also several weaknesses as demonstrated by the enforcement history, the lubrication program, outage planning and weak supervision of safety-related maintenance activities. The decline in plant performance near the end of the outage and prior to reactor startup, overcame your general improved performance, and resulted in the Board's rating of "Category 3-improving." The "improving" trend is intended to convey your overall improvement in performance of maintenance/surveillance compared to the previous SALP assessment period, especially during normal plant operations.
2. The functional area of Radiological controls improved during the assessment period and was rated as Category 1. Security remained a Category 1 rating, although a declining trend was identified in Security based on occasional lack of attention to detail, some identified violations, and a reduction in timely maintenance of some security equipment.

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3. The functional area of Engineering/Technical Support improved from the previous assessment period to a Category 2 rating. However, some isolated examples of weak performance remain, as identified in the report which warrant your continued attention.
4. Regarding Operations, control room activities were generally orderly and organized; a professional environment was maintained in the control room; the staff was well-trained; and the staff generally exhibited excellent and timely responses to operational events, particularly the operator response to the turbine fire. A few errors were noted during startup following the outage. In a few instances, inadequate communications and inattention to detail persisted which resulted in inadequate implementation of established administrative controls. Plant Operations remained a Category 2.
5. Safety Assessment/Quality Verification remained a Category 2, and Emergency Preparedness remained a Category 1. I should note, however, that subsequent to the end of the assessment period the NRC participated with you in an emergency preparedness exercise and several weaknesses were noted. These are described in inspection report (341/90003).

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. Additionally, you may provide written comments 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, signed by  
A. Bert Davis  
A. Bert Davis  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Initial SALP 11  
Report No. 50-341/90001

See Attached Distribution

See Attached Concurrence

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A. Bert Davis  
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