



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION V

1450 MARIA LANE
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596-5368

MAR 9 1994

Docket No. 70-1257
License No. SNM-1227
CAL: 5-94-001

Siemens Power Corporation
2101 Horn Rapids Road
P. O. Box 130
Richland, Washington 99352-0130

Attention: Mr. B. N. Femreite, Plant Manager

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER

This letter is to confirm the telephone conversation between you and Mr. Ross A. Scarano of my staff on March 8, 1994, concerning the reportable event of March 7, 1994, at the Siemens Power Corporation facility in Richland, Washington involving the discovery of an erroneous limiting assumption in the criticality safety analyses associated with your ammonium diuranate (ADU) processing systems. This limiting assumption was that the maximum possible uranium density in ADU was 0.85 grams uranium per cubic centimeter (gU/cc). We understand that as part of your criticality safety analysis update program, samples to confirm this assumption indicated that the density of the ADU ranged up to 1.3 gU/cc. Based upon the conversation, it is our understanding that you have taken or will take the following actions:

- (1) Siemens Power Corporation has shut down the affected Line 1 and Line 2 ADU systems.
- (2) Siemens will perform new criticality safety analyses for affected processes and equipment and confirm all limiting assumptions.
- (3) Siemens will not restart the Line 1 and Line 2 ADU process systems until management is satisfied that the new criticality safety analyses have been completed in conformance with license conditions.
- (4) You will notify the NRC Region V office prior to restart.

Issuance of this Confirmatory Action Letter does not preclude issuance of an order formalizing the above commitments or requiring other actions on the part of Siemens Power Corporation. Nor does it preclude the NRC from taking enforcement action for violations of NRC requirements that may have prompted the issuance of this letter. In addition, failure to take the actions addressed in this Confirmatory Action Letter may result in enforcement action.

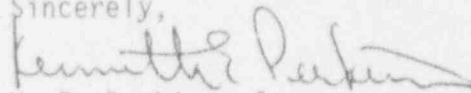
The NRC will assess your effectiveness in implementing your stated corrective actions and the commitments for safe startup of the Line 1 and Line 2 ADU systems in a future inspection.

9403160023 940309
PDR ADDCK 07001257
C PDR

11
IEO7

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth E. Perkins, Jr.", written in dark ink.

K. E. Perkins, Jr.
Acting Regional Administrator

MAR - 9 1994

Docket No. 70-1257
License No. SNM-1227
CAL: 5-94-001

Siemens Power Corporation
2101 Horn Rapids Road
P. O. Box 130
Richland, Washington 99352-0130

Attention: Mr. B. N. Femreite, Plant Manager

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER

This letter is to confirm the telephone conversation between you and Mr. Ross A. Scarano of my staff on March 8, 1994, concerning the reportable event of March 7, 1994, at the Siemens Power Corporation facility in Richland, Washington involving the discovery of an erroneous limiting assumption in the criticality safety analyses associated with your ammonium diuranate (ADU) processing systems. This limiting assumption was that the maximum possible uranium density in ADU was 0.85 grams uranium per cubic centimeter (gU/cc). We understand that as part of your criticality safety analysis update program, samples to confirm this assumption indicated that the density of the ADU ranged up to 1.3 gU/cc. Based upon the conversation, it is our understanding that you have taken or will take the following actions:

- (1) Siemens Power Corporation has shut down the affected Line 1 and Line 2 ADU systems.
- (2) Siemens will perform new criticality safety analyses for affected processes and equipment and confirm all limiting assumptions.
- (3) Siemens will not restart the Line 1 and Line 2 ADU process systems until management is satisfied that the new criticality safety analyses have been completed in conformance with license conditions.
- (4) You will notify the NRC Region V office prior to restart.

Issuance of this Confirmatory Action Letter does not preclude issuance of an order formalizing the above commitments or requiring other actions on the part of Siemens Power Corporation. Nor does it preclude the NRC from taking enforcement action for violations of NRC requirements that may have prompted the issuance of this letter. In addition, failure to take the actions addressed in this Confirmatory Action Letter may result in enforcement action.

The NRC will assess your effectiveness in implementing your stated corrective actions and the commitments for safe startup of the Line 1 and Line 2 ADU systems in a future inspection.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

K. E. Perkins, Jr.
Acting Regional Administrator

cc:
State of Washington
L. J. Maas, Manager Regulatory Compliance

bcc:
Docket File
H. Thompson, Jr., DEDS
R. Bernero, Director, NMSS
J. Lieberman, Director, OE
R. Burnett, NMSS
R. Pierson, FCLB/NMSS
M. Adams, FCLB/NMSS
J. Roth, FCOB/NMSS
M. Klasky, FCLB/NMSS
G. Cook
R. Bellamy, RI
D. Collins, RII
J. Grobe, RIII
C. Cain, RIV

REGION V
CHooker 3/8/94 JReese 3/8/94 RHuey 3/8/94 MBume 3/8/94 RScarano 3/8/94

REQUEST COPY [YES / NO] [YES / NO] [YES / NO] [YES / NO] [YES / NO]

KPerkins 3/9/94 *R. Pierson of NMSS management has concurred via telephone on 3/9/94*

REQUEST COPY [SEND TO PDR] [YES / NO] [YES / NO]