

ILLINOIS POWER

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U-601787
L47-91(02-01)-LP
8E.100a

JSP-0084-91
February 1, 1991

10CFR50.90

Docket No. 50-461

Document Control Desk
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Clinton Power Station
Request for Withdrawal of Previously
Submitted Application for Amendment

Dear Sir:

By letter U-601460 dated June 6, 1989, Illinois Power (IP) applied for amendment of Clinton Power Station (CPS) Technical Specifications 3/4.3.6, "Control Rod Block Instrumentation," 3/4.3.7.6, "Source Range Monitors," and 3/4.9.2, "Instrumentation," to reduce the required minimum neutron monitoring source range monitor (SRM) count rate from 3 counts per second (cps) to 0.7 cps with a respective change to the required signal-to-noise ratio from 2:1 to 20:1. These changes were proposed because of their potential to alleviate (through adjustment of the SRM discriminator settings) problems, which were encountered during the first refueling outage, with obtaining satisfactory count rates and signal-to-noise ratios for some of the SRMs. In addition, IP believed that a General Electric Service Information Letter (SIL 478) provided complete justification for the proposed changes.

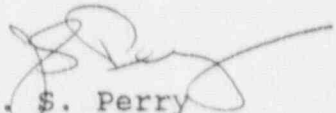
In response to the noise problems experienced with the SRMs, IP explored various options, including design changes, to resolve the noise problems. No specific design changes had been selected or implemented at the time the proposed changes to the Technical Specifications (noted above) were submitted. Subsequent to the submittal, however, IP installed new electronics for each of the SRMs that significantly reduced SRM signal noise, thus greatly enhancing IP's capability to meet the current Technical Specification requirements concerning the minimum required SRM count rates and signal-to-noise ratios.

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Also subsequent to IP's submittal, the NRC staff informed IP that a plant specific analysis would be required to technically support the proposed changes. (That is, it was noted that SIL 478 was insufficient for providing complete justification for the proposed changes.) This effected a reconsideration of the current need for the proposed changes, particularly in light of the improved SRM performance that IP has experienced following installation of the new SRM electronics.

Based on the above, IP has decided that it will not, at this time, pursue a plant specific analysis to support the noted proposed Technical Specification changes submitted in June 1989 as the need for the proposed changes has been mitigated by the improvements made to the SRMs. The excellent operating experience with the improved SRM system to date has demonstrated that the noted proposed changes are no longer required. Therefore, IP requests withdrawal of the application for amendment submitted in pursuit of these changes.

Sincerely yours,



J. S. Perry
Vice President

DAS/alh

cc: NRC Clinton Licensing Project Manager
NRC Resident Office
NRC Region III, Regional Administrator
Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety