

FEB 22 1994

Docket No. 50-155

Consumers Power Company
ATTN: P.M. Donnelly
Plant Manager
Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant
10269 US 31 North
Charlevoix, MI 49720

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

This refers to the routine safety inspection conducted by Messrs. R. Leemon, C. Brown, I. Jackiw, and R. Twigg of this office from December 15, 1993, through February 1, 1994. The inspection included a review of activities at the Big Rock Point Nuclear facility authorized by NRC Operating License No. DPR-6. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations, and interviews with personnel. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the licensee were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements.

Based on the results of this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). The violation is of concern because it demonstrated improper instincts, namely, to put off needed repairs until component failure. In this particular case, repairs to the stack gas monitoring heating system were delayed until the monitoring system failed. The deficient conditions were noted by a maintenance order in January 1993 and again by a nuclear work order in September 1993. The needed repairs were further delayed -- despite decreasing sample line flow rates coincident with severe freezing temperatures -- when a personnel shortage occurred over the holiday season. This approach by your management to degrading plant conditions does not foster a pro-active safety culture and does not meet the expectations of the NRC. The delay in taking appropriate corrective actions eventually resulted in this violation.

You are required to respond to this letter and you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

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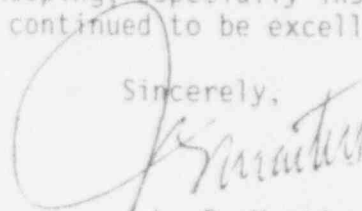
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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter, the enclosures, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

The results of this inspection also indicated improvements in engineering's support and involvement in licensee activities. Additionally, there was a notable improvement in plant housekeeping, especially inside containment, and the radiation dose control program continued to be excellent.

Sincerely,



John B. Martin
Regional Administrator

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report
No. 50-155/93021(DRP)

cc w/enclosure:

David P. Hoffman, Vice President
Nuclear Operations
OC/LFDCB
Resident Inspector, RIII
James R. Padgett, Michigan Public
Service Commission
Michigan Department of
Public Health
Big Rock Point, LPM, NRR
SRI, Palisades

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"Public"

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Original signed by
John B. Martin
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bcc: Public

RIII RIII
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Paderson
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LMiller
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Greenman
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