

MAY 26 1994

Docket/License No. 50-277/DPR-44  
50-278/DPR-56

Mr. D. M. Smith  
Senior Vice President-Nuclear  
PECO Energy Company  
Correspondence Control Desk  
P. O. Box 195  
Wayne, PA 19087-0195

Dear Mr. Smith:

SUBJECT: COMBINED INSPECTION 50-277/94-04 AND 50-278/94-04

This letter transmits the findings of the resident safety inspection conducted by Messrs. W. L. Schmidt, F. P. Bonnett, and R. K. Lorson, from March 20 through April 30, 1994, at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Delta, Pennsylvania. The inspectors based these findings on observation of activities, interviews, and document reviews, and discussed them with Mr. G. Edwards of your staff. The inspectors focused on activities that were important to the health and safety of the public.

The plant personnel operated both units safely over the period. Operators, maintenance, and engineering personnel performed well, and management provided very good support in response to reactor feed pump control issues at Unit 3. The performance enhancement process functioned well in identifying, reviewing, and providing corrective actions for significant issues. Your staff took appropriate actions to evaluate a leak in the emergency service water system, when it became evident that a planned ASME Section XI code repair could not be completed. Further, your staff provided documentation of an evaluation conducted when the leak was first identified in November 1993, proving that the piping was structurally sound and operable. We also understand that your staff has committed to follow recent NRC guidance in the area of Class III moderate pressure piping leakage in the future. This guidance would require that structural analyses be completed to prove operability, as was done in this case, and that a relief request be submitted to the NRC if a code repair cannot be quickly completed.

We are concerned with the failure of the 3A core spray pump full flow test valve to fully shut. (See Unresolved Item 94-04-02 in Section 5.2 of the enclosed report) Operators failed to identify that there was an operational problem with this valve. This was, in part, due to operators taking actions, not specified by a surveillance test procedure, to ensure that a verification step could be completed. This is of concern since such actions can mask problems. The failure of the valve to fully shut was the result of engineering performing an adjustment to the valve operator torque switch, without ensuring that the valve would perform as designed following the adjustment.

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Mr. D. M. Smith

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The inspectors identified that requirements for collecting a representative sample of the river water flowing into the site were not being met. This sample was necessary for comparison with a similar discharge stream sample, as part of the radiological environmental monitoring program. Specifically, because of system problems the flow rate into the sampling tank was not constant, therefore, the sample drawn from the tank was not representative of the intake water stream flowing into the site. The safety significance of this event was considered minimal due to the fact the you maintained redundant sampling stations external to the station. However, the event indicates that station personnel were tolerant of a degraded system condition and attempted to work around the problem in lieu of correcting the system performance. This was a violation of Technical Specification 4.8. as discussed in the enclosed Notice of Violation.

You are required to respond to this letter and 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.

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

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Wenzinger, Chief  
Projects Branch 2  
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure:

1. Appendix A, Notice of Violation
2. NRC Region I Combined Inspection Report 50-277/94-04 and 50-278/94-04

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cc w/encl:

J. Doering, Chairman, Nuclear Review Board  
G. Rainey, Vice President, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station  
W. H. Smith, Vice President, Nuclear Services Department  
D. Fetters, General Manager, Nuclear Engineering Division  
C. Schaefer, External Operations-Nuclear, Delmarva Power & Light Co.  
G. Edwards, Plant Manager, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station  
A. J. Wasong, Manager Experience Assessment, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station  
G. A. Hunger, Jr., Manager, Licensing Section  
J. W. Durham, Sr., Senior Vice President and General Counsel  
J. A. Isabella, Director, Generation Projects Department, Atlantic Electric  
B. Gorman, Manager, External Affairs  
R. McLean, Power Plant Siting, Nuclear Evaluations  
D. Poulson, Secretary of Harford County Council  
R. Ochs, Maryland Safe Energy Coalition  
J. H. Walter, Chief Engineer, Public Service Commission of Maryland  
Public Document Room (PDR)  
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)  
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)  
K. Abraham, PAO (2)  
NRC Resident Inspector  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
TMI - Alert (TMIA)

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bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

E. Wenzinger, DRP

C. Anderson, DRP

bcc w/encl via E-Mail:

V. McCree, OEDO

S. Dembek, NRR

C. Miller, PDI-2, NRR

M. Shannon, NRR

J. Joyner (Section 3.1)

RI:

*c/a fi*  
DRP

Schmidt

5/15/94

*c/a*  
DRP

Anderson

5/15/94

*[Signature]*  
DRP

Wenzinger

5/15/94

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