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JUN 29 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lee H. Thonus, Project Manager, NRR

FROM: W. L. Axelson, Director, Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF APPRECIATION FOR INSPECTION SUPPORT ON THE DRESDEN UNIT 1 SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM

I would like to express my appreciation for your participation on the Dresden Unit 1 Special Inspection Team. The January 25, 1994, event, concerning the spill of 55,000 gallons of water inside of the unheated Unit 1 containment and the potential for draining the spent fuel pool as a result of freezing conditions at the plant, was significant. The inspection team that you were on identified a number of serious concerns with the way the licensee was managing the facility. In addition, the team identified significant generic issues that resulted in the NRC issuing a Bulletin and an Information Notice. The subsequent lessons learned effort has resulted in the identification of important recommendations that should improve the NRC's oversight of facilities that are in the decommissioning phase.

The team was composed of members from Region III, NRR and NMSS and worked very well together under severe weather conditions over a two week period (including the weekend). The experience and technical competence you brought to this assignment were essential to the team and your hard work and dedication to the project were much appreciated.

"Original signed by Cynthia D. Pederson"

W. L. Axelson, Director
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

cc: B. Grimes, NRR
S. Weiss, NRR
J. Greeves, NMSS
J. Austin, NMSS
J. Martin, RIII
S. Bajwa, NRR

RIII
Jm87
McCormick-Barger/dp/jp
06/29/94

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CP
Pederson

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for CP
Axelson
6/29/94

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