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February 25, 1991

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Mail Station P1-137 Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

Gentlemen:

Subject:

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station

Unit 1

Docket No. 50-416 License No. NPF-29 Special Report 91-003

Insufficient Operable Combustion Detectors

In Control Room Panel

GNRO-91/00033

On January 27, 1991 while station instrumentation and control technicians were performing surveillance of control room fire detection instrumentation in accordance with Technical Specifications 4.3.7.9.1 and 4.3.7.9.2, two combustion (i.e., smoke) detectors were found covered with plastic bags in panel 1H13P733. This condition impaired the performance of these two detectors and rendered them inoperable. These detectors provide only early warning capability. This condition did not hinder the performance of the halon fire protection system.

Investigation of the event could not determine the specific work activity which installed the bags. The detectors were last known to be operable on August 3, 1990 when the previous semi-annual surveillance had been performed for halon panel 1H13P933. This event is reportable pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.7.9 action b since the minimum quantity of detection instruments was not satisfied and exceeded the fourteen day time limit.

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February 25, 1991 GNRO-91/00033 Page 2 of 3

The installation of these plastic bags violated the controls set forth in existing station procedures. The plastic bags were removed from the detectors upon notifying the Operations Snift Supervisor. Inspection of other panels found no additional detectors covered. The detector surveillance was resumed and performed satisfactorily. These detectors were declared operable on January 27, 1991. Fire watch requirements were satisfied since the control room had been continuously occupied during this period.

Yours truly,

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CC:

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