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Norman W. Curtis
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January 12, 1984

Dr. Thomas E. Murley
Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
INTERIM REPORT UPDATE OF A DEFICIENCY
INVOLVING THE SSES UNIT II
GE REACTOR MODE SWITCH
ER 100508 FILE 821-10
PLA-2026 Docket No. 50-388

Reference: PLA-1652 dated May 6, 1983
PLA-1872 dated September 30, 1983

Dear Dr. Murley:

The referenced PLAs provided the Commission with interim reports, submitted under the provisions of 10CFR50.55(e), on a potential deficiency involving the SSES Unit II Reactor Mode Switch. PLA-1872 indicated that PP&L anticipated providing a final report in December, 1983. This letter provides the Commission with the current status of the corrective action on the subject deficiency.

If a satisfactorily designed mode switch is not available prior to Unit II fuel load, then PP&L will operate Unit II under appropriate operating restrictions.

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The attachment to this letter contains the updated corrective action plan. PP&L now anticipates providing the Commission with a final report in April, 1984.

We trust the Commission will find this report to be satisfactory.

Very truly yours,

B. Kenyon for

N. W. Curtis
Vice President-Engineering & Construction-Nuclear

wlb:sab

Attachment

wlb/lta07a

Copy to:
Mr. Richard C. DeYoung (15)
Director-Office of Inspection & Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Mr. G. McDonald, Director
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Records Center
Institute of Nuclear Power Operations
1100 Circle 75 Parkway, Suite 1500
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CORRECTIVE ACTIONS UPDATE

a) GE Switch Redesign

In PLA-1872 dated September 30, 1983, we reported that GE had redesigned the mode switch, a prototype had been tested (by GE) satisfactorily, and that manufacturing was in progress. We reported that a sample from the production lot would be received by 10/7/83 and that we would test the switch in Franklin Institute Research Laboratory (FIRL) to confirm the successful redesign.

The first switch, received at FIRL on October 20, 1983, had to be returned due to shipping damage.

Since that time, we have rejected proposed GE redesigns for various reasons based upon testing conducted at FIRL on switches received on November 2, November 18 and November 30.

Additional design features incorporated by GE to resolve these problems have included:

1) Color coding the cams to prevent switch assembly errors

2) Marking the front face of the cams to ensure proper cam orientation during switch assembly

3) Changing the tolerances in the metal shaft to key interface to eliminate the backlash problems

4) Epoxying the stationary contacts so no movement will occur

5) Remilling the cams to tighter tolerances

These changes provided incremental improvements in switch performance and have all been incorporated in the most recently received switch. This switch, received at FIRL on December 20, 1983, has satisfactorily passed initial testing and testing is scheduled for completion in January 1984.

b) Alternate Switch Design

PP&L has placed an order with Electroswitch for an alternate switch. Delivery and start of testing is scheduled for March 30, 1984. This program will be conducted in parallel with a) above until it is demonstrated that all problems/concerns with the mode switch have been resolved.