

October 31, 1995

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

SUBJECT: SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-352/95-81 AND 50-353/95-81

Dear Mr. Smith:

The enclosed report refers to an onsite review by an NRC Special Inspection from September 12 through 21, 1995, at the Limerick Nuclear Generating Station. Prior to and during the inspection, Limerick station personnel were involved in a comprehensive corrective action response to several technical issues relating to a September 11, 1995, Unusual Event.

The charter of this Special Inspection was to assess the effectiveness and safety perspective of PECO Energy (PECO) during: event corrective actions and root cause analysis; prioritization and conduct of work on plant equipment; the determination of equipment operability and configuration control; management oversight of plant performance; and the characterization of potentially generic issues. The inspection focused on issues important to ensuring the public health and safety and consisted of observations of activities, reviews of documents and interviews with plant personnel.

The specific results are documented in the enclosed report and were discussed with Mr. MacFarland and Mr. R. Boyce of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection, on September 21, 1995. Some strengths were noted. The processes and practices used by Limerick line management in response to the event were exceptional in that they were logical, carefully contemplated, employed sound principles of industrial and nuclear safety, based on the clear communication of expectations and effectively managed.

With respect to the event, it was noted that the Independent Safety Engineering Group (ISEG) members were knowledgeable of the technical issues, aggressive in their review activities, and demonstrated a high level of individually expressed professional independence. However, prior to the event the ISEG had undergone a number of organizational changes, which affected its participation in the event review. It had previously been reduced in number, the level of ISEG offsite organizational access appeared to have been limited and the practice of issuing draft reports to line management prior to the issuance of final reports held the potential for a loss of independence.

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The inspectors identified several issues with respect to adequate corrective action prior to the September 11, 1995 event, concerning suppression pool cleanliness/emergency core cooling system operability and safety relief valve operability. These issues are identified as an unresolved item (URI) 352,353/95-81-01 and will be the subject of future NRC inspection activity.

The inspectors identified no issues which would affect the restart of Unit 1 or the continued operations of Unit 2.

During the exit meeting that was conducted at the conclusion of this special inspection, PECO committed to provide NRC Region I with a letter describing a number of technical issues. These issues included your justification for continued operability of safety relief valves (SRV) with tailpipe temperatures above 250 degrees Fahrenheit, a description of SRV operability monitoring, a justification for emergency core cooling system (ECCS) suction strainer operability, and a description of ECCS suction strainer operability monitoring. PECO provided a letter by October 6, 1995.

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.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Wayne D. Lanning, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-352
 50-353
License Nos. NPF-39
 NPF-85

Enclosure: NRC Region I Inspection Report 50-352/95-81 & 50-353/95-81

cc w/encl:

W. MacFarland, Vice President - Limerick Generating Station
G. A. Hunger, Jr., Director - Licensing, Chairman - Nuclear Review Board
J. L. Kantner, Regulatory Engineer - Limerick Generating Station
Secretary, Nuclear Committee of the Board
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
D. Screnci, PAO (2)
NRC Resident Inspector, Limerick
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. D. M. Smith

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