

December 14, 1995

Duke Power Company
ATTN: Mr. W. R. McCollum
Site Vice President
Catawba Site
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745-9635

SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY - CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION

Gentlemen:

This refers to the December 4, 1995, meeting held onsite to discuss the NRC's Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance for your Catawba facility. Our report, 50-413,414/95-99, dated November 20, 1995, had been previously sent to you. A list of attendees and a copy of our handout are enclosed.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

No reply to this letter is required; however, if you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

R. V. Crlenjak, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414
License Nos. NPF-35, NPF-52

Enclosures:

1. List of Attendees
2. NRC Handout

cc w/encls:

Mr. Z. L. Taylor
Compliance
Duke Power Company
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745-9635

cc w/encls cont'd: (See page 2)

180078

9512190149 951214
PDR ADOCK 05000413
Q PDR

JE01

cc w/encls cont'd:
Mr. Paul R. Newton
Duke Power Company, PB05E
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28242-0001

Mr. Robert P. Gruber
Executive Director
Public Staff - NCUC
P. O. Box 29520
Raleigh, NC 27626-0520

Mr. J. Michael McGarry, III, Esq.
Winston and Strawn
1400 L Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20005

North Carolina MPA-1
Suite 600
P. O. Box 29513
Raleigh, NC 27626-0513

Mr. Max Batavia, Chief
Bureau of Radiological Health
S. C. Department of Health
and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Richard P. Wilson, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
S. C. Attorney General's Office
P. O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211

Mr. Michael Hirsch
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, Sw, Room 840
Washington, D. C. 20472

North Carolina Electric
Membership Corporation
P. O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

cc w/encls cont'd: (See page 3)

cc w/encls cont'd:
 Karen E. Long
 Assistant Attorney General
 N. C. Department of Justice
 P. O. Box 629
 Raleigh, NC 27602

Distribution w/encls:
 R. Martin, NRR
 R. Carroll, RII
 R. Crlenjak, RII
 G. Hallstrom, RII
 PUBLIC

Saluda River Electric
 Cooperative, Inc.
 P. O. Box 929
 Laurens, SC 29360

NRC Resident Inspector
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Comm.
 4830 Concord Road
 York, SC 29745

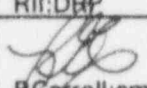
Peter R. Harden IV
 Account Sales Manager
 Power Systems Field Sales
 Westinghouse Electric Corporation
 P. O. Box 7288
 Charlotte, NC 28241

County Manager of York County
 York County Courthouse
 York, SC 29745

Piedmont Municipal Power Agency
 121 Village Drive
 Greer, SC 29651

Mr. G. A. Copp
 Licensing - EC050
 Duke Power Company
 P. O. Box 1006
 Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

Mr. Paul Pappas
 Director, Nuclear Operations
 North Carolina Electric
 Membership Corporation
 4800 Concord Road
 York, SC 29745

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LIST OF ATTENDEES

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

S. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator, Region II (RII)
J. Johnson, Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects (DRP), RII
H. Berkow, Director, Project Directorate II-2, Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation (NRR)
R. Crlenjak, Chief, Reactor Projects Branch 1, DRP, RII
R. Martin, Senior Project Manager, NRR
R. Freudenberger, Catawba Senior Resident, DRP, RII

DUKE POWER COMPANY

W. Grigg, Chairman of the Board & CEO
R. PRIORITY, President & COO
M. Tuckman, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Generation Department
W. McCollum, Vice President, Catawba Nuclear Site (CNS)
G. Peterson, Station Manager, CNS
J. Forbes, Engineering Manager, CNS



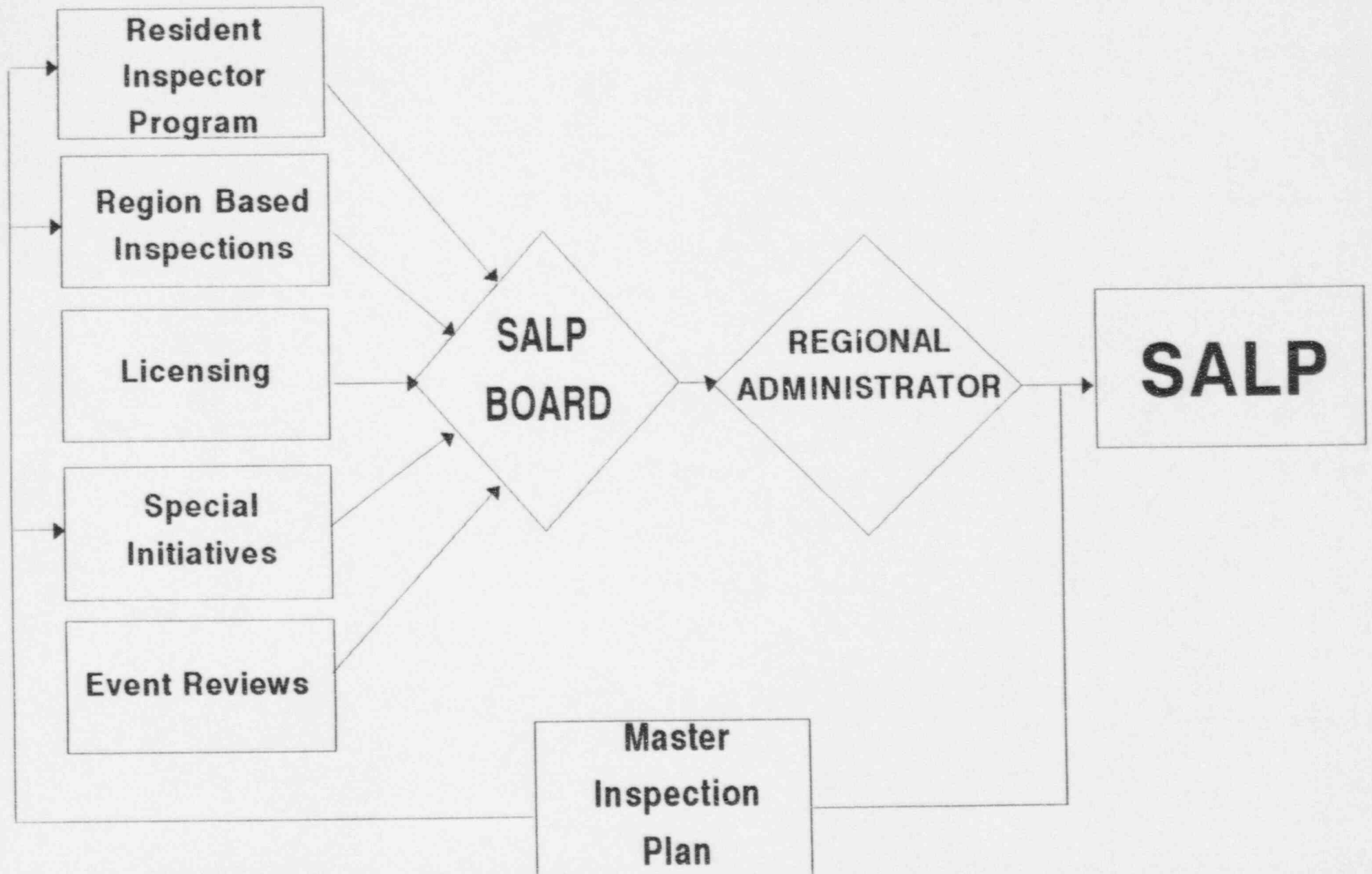
SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE (SALP)

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION - UNITS 1 & 2

Appraisal Period: October 3, 1993 through October 7, 1995

SALP Presentation: December 4, 1995

SALP PROCESS



CATEGORY 1 - Superior

Licensee attention and involvement have been properly focused on safety and resulted in a superior level of safety performance. Licensee programs and procedures have provided effective controls. The licensee's self-assessment efforts have been effective in the identification of emergent issues. Corrective actions are technically sound, comprehensive, and thorough. Recurring problems are eliminated and resolution of issues is timely. Root cause analyses are thorough.

CATEGORY 2 - Good

Licensee attention and involvement are normally well-focused and resulted in a good level of safety performance. Licensee programs and procedures normally provide the necessary control of activities, but deficiencies may exist. The licensee's self-assessments are normally good, although issues may escape identification. Corrective actions are usually effective, although some may not be complete. Root cause analyses are normally thorough.

CATEGORY 3 - Acceptable

Licensee attention and involvement have resulted in an acceptable level of safety performance. However, licensee performance may exhibit one or more of the following characteristics. Licensee programs and procedures have not provided sufficient control of activities in important areas. The licensee's self-assessment efforts may not occur until after a potential problem becomes apparent. A clear understanding of the safety implications of significant issues may not have been demonstrated. Numerous minor issues combine to indicate that the licensee's corrective action is not thorough. Root cause analyses do not probe deep enough, resulting in the incomplete resolution of issues. Because the margin to unacceptable performance in important aspects is small, increased NRC and licensee attention is required.

**CATAWBA NUCLEAR PLANT
SALP BOARD MEMBERS**

JON R. JOHNSON	Deputy Director Division of Reactor Projects Region II
ALBERT F. GIBSON	Director Division of Reactor Safety Region II
HERBERT N. BERKOW	Director Project Directorate II-2 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

CATAWBA NUCLEAR PLANT

SALP RATING SUMMARY

FUNCTIONAL AREA	RATING THIS PERIOD	RATING LAST PERIOD
PLANT OPERATIONS	2	2
MAINTENANCE	2	2
ENGINEERING	2	2
PLANT SUPPORT	2	1



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
101 MARIETTA STREET, N.W., SUITE 2900
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323-0199

November 20, 1995

Duke Power Company
ATTN: Mr. W. R. McCollum
Vice President
Catawba Site
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745-9635

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE (SALP) CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION (REPORT NOS. 50-413/95-99 AND 50-414/95-99)

Gentlemen:

The NRC Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) has been completed for your Catawba facility. The facility was evaluated for the period of October 3, 1993, through October 7, 1995. The results of the evaluation are documented in the enclosed SALP report. This report will be discussed with you at a public meeting to be held at the Catawba site on December 4, 1995, at 1:00 p.m.

This SALP assessed facility performance as being good in all four functional areas: plant operations, maintenance, engineering and plant support. Performance declined from the previous assessment period in the plant support area primarily due to problems in minimizing radiation exposure and contamination control, particularly during refueling outages, as well as due to minimally effective self-assessments.

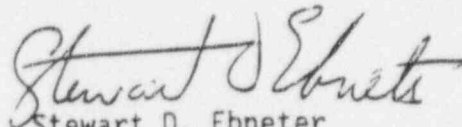
During the early and middle parts of this period, human performance, equipment, and procedure related problems had considerable impact on overall facility performance. Improvement initiatives implemented late in the assessment period (within the last six months) were recognized as having initial positive effects. Accordingly, it is important that management attention continues to be focused on these improvement initiatives, particularly those involving the quality of operations, self-assessment, outage maintenance, radiological controls, and problem root cause analysis.

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

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Should you have any questions or comments, I would be pleased to discuss them with you. I look forward to discussing this assessment with you on December 4, 1995.

Sincerely,


Stewart D. Ebnetter
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos.: 50-413 and 50-414
License Nos.: NPF-35 and NPF-52

Enclosure: Catawba SALP Report

cc w/encl:
Mr. Z. L. Taylor
Compliance
Duke Power Company
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745-9635

Mr. A. V. Carr, Esq.
Duke Power Company
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28242-0001

Mr. Robert P. Gruber
Executive Director
Public Staff - NCUC
P. O. Box 29520
Raleigh, NC 27626-0520

Mr. J. Michael McGarry, III, Esq.
Winston and Strawn
1400 L Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20005

North Carolina MPA-1
Suite 600
P. O. Box 29513
Raleigh, NC 27626-0513

cc w/encl cont'd: (See page 3)

cc w/encl cont'd:
Mr. Max Batavia, Chief
Bureau of Radiological Health
S. C. Department of Health
and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Richard P. Wilson, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
S. C. Attorney General's Office
P. O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211

Mr. Michael Hirsch
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, Sw, Room 840
Washington, D. C. 20472

North Carolina Electric
Membership Corporation
P. O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

Karen E. Long
Assistant Attorney General
N. C. Department of Justice
P. O. Box 629
Raleigh, NC 27602

Saluda River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.
P. O. Box 929
Laurens, SC 29360

Peter R. Harden IV
Account Sales Manager
Power Systems Field Sales
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
P. O. Box 7288
Charlotte, NC 28241

County Manager of York County
York County Courthouse
York, SC 29745

Piedmont Municipal Power Agency
121 Village Drive
Greer, SC 29651

cc w/encl cont'd: (See page 4)

DPC

4

cc w/encl cont'd:
Mr. G. A. Copp
Licensing - EC050
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 1006
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

Mr. Paul Pappas
Director, Nuclear Operations
North Carolina Electric
Membership Corporation
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE REPORT
CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION
50-413/95-99 AND 50-414/95-99

I. BACKGROUND

The SALP Board convened on October 24, 1995, to assess the nuclear safety performance of Catawba Nuclear Station for the period October 3, 1993, through October 7, 1995. The Board was conducted in accordance with Management Directive 8.6, "Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance." Board members were J. R. Johnson (Board Chairperson) Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects; A. F. Gibson, Director, Division of Reactor Safety; and H. N. Berkow, Director, Project Directorate II-2, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. This assessment was reviewed and approved by the Regional Administrator.

II. PLANT OPERATIONS

This functional area addresses the control and execution of activities directly related to operating the plant. It includes activities such as plant startup, power operation, plant shutdown and response to transients. It also includes initial and requalification training programs for licensed operators.

Overall performance in the plant operations area during the assessment period has been good. Performance by plant operators in response to a significant number of plant trips and power runbacks was good. Operations management effectively addressed previous SALP concerns with the quality of emergency operating procedures and weak abnormal operations performance during initial and requalification training. Procedural adherence related problems noted in the last SALP were not as prevalent during this assessment period.

The quality of operators' performance in the mid-SALP period was poor, with multiple personnel errors involving valve tagging, self-checking, and interpretations of Technical Specifications by licensed operators. Performance during the last five months of this period has shown improvement. This was due, in part, to improved standards being set and additional station management oversight.

The safety focus of on-shift personnel was generally good. Safety system operability decision-making was conservative. Effective compensatory actions were established when degraded equipment performance was identified. Although implementation of shift briefings and on-line maintenance activities were inconsistent, they improved toward the end of the period.

Operators identified and assured resolution of plant equipment problems affecting operations. Operator workarounds were minimized and control room instrumentation was kept in good working condition. A dark annunciator panel policy was aggressively implemented, thereby minimizing distractions to control room operators.

ENCLOSURE

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Plant administrative controls, as well as simulator modeling to support outage operations training, continued to provide an excellent framework to minimize risk during plant shutdown operations and outages. As a result, risk was minimal for those several instances where shutdown cooling system operation was challenged.

Management involvement in operator simulator training programs has been effective. Operations management expectations were effectively communicated for emergency conditions, as evidenced by more than 30 simulator evaluations in 1995 and good in-plant transient response. This contrasts with weak management involvement in day-to-day in-plant activities. Routine in-plant performance suffered because questioning attitudes, accountability, and tagging control were not routinely reinforced.

The effectiveness of operations' self-assessments, as well as Plant Operations Review Committee (PORC) safety reviews, were inconsistent. Routine plant operations' assessments were not rigorous and did not identify the need to assure better staff support for on-shift operations. The Problem Identification Process also had limitations with respect to trending problems associated with human performance. Additionally, PORC did not identify weaknesses in special operations activities to ensure that they were technically sound and properly controlled.

A number of initiatives were taken in the latter part of the period by station management which focused on improving plant operations. Some improvement was noted in the use of independent verification and self-checking, as well as an improved questioning attitude by operators (particularly when interfacing with engineering and maintenance personnel).

The Plant Operations area is rated Category 2.

III. MAINTENANCE

This functional area addresses activities related to diagnostic, predictive, preventive and corrective maintenance of plant structures, systems and components. It also includes all surveillance testing, inservice inspection and other tests associated with equipment and system operability.

Although several plant transients were caused by equipment failure, the reliability of plant equipment improved over the period. Reflective of effective maintenance and testing, safety systems consistently performed well when called upon and their unavailability remained low.

There were weaknesses associated with maintenance and surveillance programs during the assessment period. These weaknesses included not adhering to procedures, poor work control and surveillance scheduling, lack of operations reviewing work requests, and an unstructured

ENCLOSURE

troubleshooting process. Failure to follow procedures and work practice deficiencies, especially mechanical maintenance during refueling outages, caused equipment failures or adversely affected facility operations. Similarly, ineffective planning and implementation of a new work control process late in 1994 resulted in several operational events.

Licensee management initiatives were implemented to address the aforementioned program weaknesses. A Failure Investigation Process was developed and implemented to bring structure and engineering involvement into the process for troubleshooting complex failures. Surveillance test scheduling and tracking was centralized with improved accountability for program implementation. Work control scheduling self-assessment processes were established. Human performance improvement initiatives were implemented and consistently reinforced by station management. In addition, a risk-based review of ongoing maintenance activities was implemented. Although human performance deficiencies remained a challenge, the above program initiatives resulted in improved performance toward the end of the assessment period.

Self-assessments were normally effective once the operational event threshold was reached. Corrective actions to address programmatic deficiencies significantly strengthened several maintenance programs. Individual problems identified in the Problem Investigation Process were not always trended and fully assessed to identify programmatic deficiencies, but performance in this area improved late in the period.

The Maintenance area is rated Category 2.

IV. ENGINEERING

This functional area addresses activities associated with the design of plant modifications and engineering support for operations, maintenance and licensing activities.

Engineering performance continued to be good during the period. The major reorganization of corporate and station engineering was completed early in the period. The new organization stabilized and functioned effectively. Challenges identified in the previous SALP were effectively addressed.

Engineering support to operations was uneven. Strengths were evident in the support to shutdown risk operations, in the recovery plans for malfunctioning equipment while at power, in most engineering support to testing activities, and in the prevention of operational problems with the existing degraded Unit 1 steam generator tubes. However, instances of failure to appropriately communicate or take timely corrective action on the basis of off-normal test or operational data contributed to inoperable equipment and facility transients, indicating the need for continued improvement in human performance.

ENCLOSURE

Implementation problems related to deficiencies in the development of some modifications were evident throughout the period. Improved modification quality was achieved later in the period through additional management focus, cross-disciplinary review, applying an operational perspective, and independent review and monitoring.

Engineering support towards maintaining plant systems and equipment was good. The availability of key safety systems remained high. Engineering backlogs were significantly reduced. Effective corrective actions were underway to address long-standing equipment problems with optical isolators and circuit boards. However, corrective actions on several other issues, such as component cooling water pump deficiencies, were not as timely.

Although trending limitations were addressed in the functional areas of plant operations and maintenance, the Problem Investigation Process was an effective tool to document problems. It was augmented by a Failure Investigation Process, a structured process for the more complex root cause determinations, which enhanced engineering support to maintenance. Also, system engineer review of test results, System Health Reports, and licensee self-assessments aided the identification and resolution of deficiencies. Once problems were recognized, resolution was normally good.

Licensee actions reflected a good safety focus. Management initiatives to further strengthen the safety focus included the Accountability Planning and Appraisal process, which established specific organizational and personnel goals and accountability down to the individual performance appraisal level.

The quality of licensing submittals was generally good. The strongest area of performance was the corporate engineering activities in support of the steam generator replacement project. Notwithstanding the previously provided guidance for preparing relief requests, some initial requests for relief from ASME Section XI testing and inspection requirements were insufficient to support a review. On all such occasions, once an inadequacy was identified, the licensee acted quickly to resolve the issue.

The Engineering area is rated Category 2.

V. PLANT SUPPORT

This functional area addresses all activities related to the plant support function, including radiological controls, radioactive effluent, chemistry, emergency preparedness, security, fire protection and housekeeping controls.

Overall, the radiological control program was effectively implemented. Individual exposures were maintained within regulatory limits and good

ENCLOSURE

radiological control performance was apparent in most routine and high radiation exposure activities. Management and staff were qualified and supported by an effective training program that focused on improved worker awareness of plant challenges. Detracting from performance in radiological controls was a lack of procedural adherence and overall inattention to detail.

There were problems minimizing radiation exposure and contamination control, especially during refueling outages. Collective radiation dose was adversely impacted during each refueling outage of the assessment period due to instances of ineffective planning and control. Annual personnel contamination goals were exceeded during the period, in part due to ineffective contamination control practices. Also, radiological controls associated with radiation area postings and surveys were occasionally weak. Self-assessments in the radiation protection area were minimally effective, with improvement noted late in the period.

The radiological effluent control program remained effective with no unplanned releases during the period. All routine gaseous and liquid releases and associated doses to the public were maintained to a small fraction of regulatory limits. Programs implemented to monitor releases of radiological effluents to the environment were effective and assured that plant operations caused negligible impact to the environs of the plant. All system chemistry parameters were maintained well within requirements.

Consistent superior performance was demonstrated in all key elements of the emergency preparedness program. The emergency response organization was maintained in a high state of readiness throughout the period as demonstrated during numerous self-initiated drills and exercises and one actual event. Overall training of emergency response personnel was a strength, with good management commitment evident in the program. Emergency response facilities and associated dedicated equipment, as evaluated during exercises, were fully capable of supporting an emergency response and represented a program strength. Emergency preparedness self-assessments, including exercise critiques, were effective in identifying and correcting problems. The level of cooperation and overall interface with offsite State and local authorities remained good.

Security program performance was good overall with training and qualification of security personnel identified as a program strength. Security equipment was maintained in a state of readiness sufficient to support postulated security events. Prompt corrective action to degraded security systems and equipment reduced the duration of compensatory measures. The security plan fully defined security requirements and, with rare exception, personnel properly implemented the security plan. Licensee management effectively addressed security challenges during the period associated with the adequate control of safeguards information and unsecured vital area doors.

ENCLOSURE

Fire protection response capabilities were maintained in a good state of readiness. Effective maintenance of fire detection and suppression systems provided good fire equipment availability. Staffing levels for the fire brigade exceeded regulatory requirements. The fire brigade was well equipped and demonstrated an effective fire response capability during fire drills.

The Plant Support Area is rated Category 2.