

December 18, 1995

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

SUBJECT: LIMERICK PLANT PERFORMANCE REVIEW RESULTS

Dear Mr. Smith:

On December 5, 1995, Region I performed a Plant Performance Review (PPR) for the Limerick Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, covering the period April 2, 1995 to December 2, 1995. The PPR process consisted of a review of inspection findings, significant events, and other information that related to the integrated performance at Limerick. The purpose of this process was to assess nuclear plant performance for trends, and to plan future inspection activities. Another Limerick PPR will occur later in the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) cycle.

Strong performance continued in the operations area. Your licensed operators have continued to operate the plants in a safe, reliable manner. Operator responses and corrective actions during four scrams and other transients were excellent. However, management identified a number of minor events that were caused by operator error. In response, operations management instituted an event free operations program, which is a very good initiative, and has led to improvements. Your licensed operator requalification training program was very good, as well as the pilot program for initial operator exams.

Strong performance continued in the maintenance area. Overall implementation of the maintenance program has been very effective even though there were a few isolated maintenance deficiencies, including improper installation of a reactor vessel head flange and inadequate staking of a residual heat removal system check valve nut. Effective on-line maintenance continued, with good use of probabilistic risk assessment. Refueling and mini outages were exceptionally planned, scheduled and conducted.

Effective communication and coordination among the site and corporate organizations contributed to a generally good level of engineering performance. Monitoring and trending of the fuel leak, including the planned shutdown, were noteworthy. Your feedwater tiger team has been a positive initiative. However, there were several engineering deficiencies noted during the period. An inadequate modification to the hydrogen recombiners led to initiations of two plant shutdowns. The practice of raising SRV tailpipe temperature alarm setpoints without a full understanding of the leakage mechanism, including failing to correct the leakage, was a noted concern. Lastly, the engineering organization did not monitor or recommend cleaning the Unit 1 suppression pool during two maintenance outages following cleaning of

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the Unit 2 suppression pool. We did note that once these problems were identified, your organization aggressively pursued the problems and developed extensive corrective actions.

Continued strong performance was noted in the plant support area. Very good overall performance was noted in the radiation controls area, with noteworthy ALARA program performance and effective exposure control. Instances of inadequate contamination control occurred early in the period, but aggressive management attention led to excellent corrective actions. The radiological environmental monitoring program and meteorological monitoring program have been good. An effective security program continued and the latest emergency preparedness exercise was very good.

Of concern to the NRC were the occurrences of four scrams between August 8 and September 11, 1995, as well as other transients experienced during the last six months. Your reviews have not found common contributing root causes, but we noted that you have developed a Focus on Excellence Through People program to address broad issues. Mr. Walter Pasciak of my staff will be contacting your organization shortly to schedule a management meeting in the Region I office in order for you to present the results of your analysis of these events as well as the highlights of the Focus on Excellence program.

Enclosure 1 provides the schedule and basis for NRC inspections of your facility planned through November 1996. We will inform you of any changes to the attached inspection schedule. The routine resident inspection effort is not included in this schedule.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Walter Pasciak at 610-337-5258.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Wayne D. Lanning, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-352
50-353

Enclosure: Planned Inspections

cc w/encl:

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

Mr. D. M. Smith

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DATE	12/14/96		12/14/96		12/15/96		12/ /96		

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**LIMERICK
PLANNED NRC INSPECTIONS**

DECEMBER 1995 - NOVEMBER 1996

IP - NRC Inspection Procedure
 CO - Core Inspection (NRC Program Requirement)
 RI - Regional Initiative Inspection
 RR - Regional Reactive Inspection
 TI - Temporary Instruction (NRR Program Requirement)

<u>IP NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
83750 CO	Occupational Radiation Exposure (Outage Radiation Control Unit 1)	02/05/96
73753 CO	Inservice Inspection (Unit 1)	02/12/96
64704 CO	Fire Protection Program	02/12/96
2515/127 TI	Access Authorization	02/12/96
84750 CO	Radioactive Waste Treatment and Effluent and Environmental Monitoring (Effluents)	03/04/96
92901/2/3 RR 90700 RI	Followup - Operations/Maintenance/Engineering Feedback of Operational Experience Information at Operating Power Reactors [PPR Mandate - Followup safety relief valve/suppression pool event and incorporate review of use of industry operating experience]	3/96 Est.
37550 CO	Engineering (Visit #1)	04/08/96
37550 CO	Engineering (Visit #2)	04/22/96
86750 CO	Solid Radioactive Waste Management and Transportation of Radioactive Materials	05/13/96
37550 CO	Engineering (Visit #3)	06/10/96
82701 CO	Operational Status of the Emergency Preparedness Program	10/21/96