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ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY



CLINTON POWER STATION, P.O. BOX 678, CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727

November 12, 1984

Docket No. 50-461

James L. Milhoan
Section Chief, Licensing Section
Quality Assurance Branch
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Mail Stop EWS-305A
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Illinois Power Company
Clinton Power Station
Independent Design Review
Docket No. 50-461 OL

Dear Mr. Milhoan:

By letter of October 26, 1984, Mr. Samelson, Assistant Illinois Attorney General, submitted to the NRC Illinois' comments on the first progress report of Bechtel in the above-referenced matter. Although the letter focuses on three areas of particular concern to Illinois, it appears that Illinois still seeks responses to other comments it presented at the meeting on October 16, 1984.

We have reviewed the comments presented by Illinois both in its October 26 letter and at the October 16 meeting. Enclosed for your information are our responses to such comments.

In its October 26 letter, Illinois also requests copies of the following documents:

(1) the Sargent & Lundy analysis of the four independent reviews of S&L design activities, as specified in correspondence dated October 11, 1984 from D. P. Hall to James L. Milhoan (U-0750):

(2) the "point papers" developed by Illinois Power Company in response to the twenty engineering design areas identified by Stone & Webster; reference D. P. Hall to James L. Milhoan dated September 28, 1984 (U-0741); and

(3) each of the reviews of Sargent & Lundy design activities which are being provided to BPC in the conduct of the IDR.

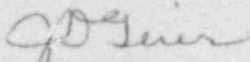
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To: I&E Files
Add: James Milhoan Ltr Encl

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We have forwarded to Mr. Samelson a copy of the documents specified in item (1). We have forwarded to Mr. Samelson copies of 17 of the 20 point papers specified in item (2). Three of the point papers are still being prepared. These will be forwarded to Mr. Samelson under separate cover when they are completed. We have asked Mr. Samelson to clarify the request contained in item (3).

Sincerely yours,



J. D. Geier
Assistant To The Vice President

JDC/lm

Enclosure

cc: IDR Standard Distribution List (w/encl.)

Clinton Power Station

Independent Design Review
Standard Distribution List

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Illinois Power Responses to
Attorney General of Illinois
Comments in Letter of 10/26/84
and at Meeting of 10/16/84

(1) Illinois Comment (p.1 of 10/26/84 letter)

"Firstly, we request an opportunity to inspect the primary documentation generated during the course of the IDR. This would include check lists, commitment lists, review sheets, and all other working files of BPC in the conduct of the IDR. Without access to this documentation, we believe the IDR reports are essentially inscrutable."

Illinois Power (IP) Response

The information to which Illinois seeks access is available for inspection by the NRC. The possibility of access to some information by Illinois can be taken up in the continuing discussions between Illinois and IP and should be resolved between them. Any Illinois access to information would, however, necessarily be limited to such items as minutes of Bechtel meetings with Sargent & Lundy (S&L), requests for information, and information provided by S&L (excluding proprietary information). While a subject is being reviewed by Bechtel, in order to avoid any outside influence on or impediment of Bechtel's efforts, only the NRC audits should have access to "check lists, commitment lists, review sheets, and all other working files of BPC . . ."

(2) Illinois Comment (p.1 of 10/26/84 letter)

"Secondly, it is unclear whether substantive discussions between BPC and Sargent & Lundy or Illinois Power Company will be held during 'working meetings' that may occur after an observation has been reported. We believe that any such discussions should be subject to the prior notice and opportunity-to-attend requirements of the IDR protocol."

IP Response

Whether before or after an observation has been reported, substantive discussions between Bechtel and IP or S&L can take place only at a public meeting subject to the notice requirements of paragraph 3 of the Protocol or in telephone conversations subject to paragraph 6 of the Protocol proposed in IP's letter of 11/1/84, as modified and approved by the NRC letter of 11/6/84. Discussions in the course of obtaining information or clarification of requests for information are, of course, subject to paragraph 2 of the Protocol.

In accordance with the NRC's request (transcript of 10/16/84 meeting, page 149), information flow between Bechtel and S&L will be an item on the agenda of the public meeting scheduled for November 13, 1984. Bechtel will also respond at the meeting to the NRC comment resulting from its program plan implementation inspection that Bechtel procedures "should clearly identify protocol requirements relative to discussions of substantive technical matters with reviewee organizations." (IE Report No. 50-461/84-39, Attachment 1, at page 2).

(3) Illinois Comment (pp. 1-2 of 10/26/84 letter)

"Thirdly, we are especially concerned about Sargent & Lundy's role in the IDR. Recent Observation Reports confirm our initial impression that it is Sargent & Lundy, rather than the independent reviewer, who is conducting important aspects of the IDR program. See, for example, observation report no. 10, dated October 12, 1984:

'S&L should provide an explanation of why these discrepancies occurred, and an assessment of their safety significance. S&L should identify similar applications of using interruptable control power in the control circuits of other safety related systems and verify that the design commitments are implemented in the design to ensure design adequacy.'

and observation report no. 11, dated October 12, 1984:

'S&L should provide an explanation of why these discrepancies occurred, and an assessment of their safety significance. S&L should review other layout drawings and evaluate the implication on other systems and areas if similar discrepancies occur elsewhere.'

We would be interested in learning whether, in the judgement of NRC, the IDR is being conducted with the requisite independence and 'freedom from outside influence', on the scope of the reviewer's work, in the processing of observations, the determination of their safety significance, the need for more intensive review, and in the valuation for underlying, root causes or broader implications. (See IDR Program Plan, Rev. 1, page 3, par. 2 and page 6, par.1.)"

IP Response

Notwithstanding Illinois' expressed concern, nothing in the cited Observation Reports (or any other Observation Reports) would indicate that S&L, rather than Bechtel, is "conducting important aspects of the IDR program." It is fully appropriate for Bechtel, in an open process, to obtain both factual information from S&L and S&L's explanation or position concerning any subject. In fact, Bechtel would be remiss in attempting to finalize its views on any subject without obtaining such information or explanation. This is

no different than the mechanisms NRC itself employs in developing a complete record in the course of assessing the significance of any identified concern and any need for corrective action. The use of such mechanisms does not in any way affect "the requisite independence and 'freedom from outside influence'" of the IDR.

(4) Illinois Comment (Tr. of 10/16/84, p. 132)

"Mr. Hubbard: Jim, following on from what Allen was saying, the progress reports don't really have anything in the way of underlying documents.

By that, the checklists aren't there, the commitment lists and the detailed procedures that are being used. So if one wishes to speed up the final review, then one suggestion would be that these underlying documents should be provided at an earlier time.

And that also ties into -- one of the purposes of today's meeting is to get feedback. And it's very difficult to provide feedback when the underlying documents aren't provided."

IP Response

This Illinois request is set forth more specifically in its letter of 8/26/84 (see Illinois Comment (1) above) and is responded to above.

(5) Illinois Comment (Tr. of 10/16/84, p. 134)

"Mr. Hubbard: Another general area that in terms of the checklists and commitments lists, there have been many references to the FSAR, and I didn't hear any references to the PSAR.

And so a question I would have is: What is the role of the PSAR if any in the review?"

IP Response

As noted at page 9 of the IDR Program Plan, the source of commitments being reviewed by Bechtel to identify commitments include the FSAR and IP responses to NRC questions on the FSAR. Since the FSAR contains a more detailed and updated description of design and commitments than the PSAR, the PSAR is not being reviewed in the IDR.

(6) Illinois Comment (Tr. of 10/16/84, p. 134)

"A third area is in Mr. Geier's letter and some of the comments by Mr. Powell, it was mentioned that aspects of the HVAC system were being looked at. And we would like to know specifically what aspects of the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems will be looked at?"

IP Response

Portions of the HVAC related to the systems within scope of the IDR are being reviewed. From this, a reasonable assessment can be made of key elements of HVAC design. Specifically, the following will be reviewed:

- ° HVAC duct supports
- ° HVAC equipment specification
- ° Fire protection dampers
- ° Seismic II/I design
- ° Equipment environmental qualification
- ° Heat load and seismic criteria
- ° IDR system design process related to HVAC.

(7) Illinois Comment (Tr. of 10/16/84, p. 134)

"A fourth area is that there was mention made that samples were being used within some of the vertical reviews. And we think that the report should set forth the basis for the sampling size determined by Bechtel to be appropriate and then within that the reasons why particular items were selected, whether it's based on engineering judgement, statistics, or any other method that they are using."

IP Response

The Final Report will, indeed, cover the subject of sample selection, as to the basis, selection, and size. The method of sampling is based upon use of engineering judgement, by qualified reviewers. In this, a large number of significant elements are reviewed and evaluated, in accordance with the Program Plan. When results indicate additional review should be performed, the IDR takes more samples or causes others to do so. The scope selection provides good coverage of a broad spectrum of design, and was discussed in Bechtel's letters BLI-04, 6/25/84 and BLI-11, 8/17/84. This sampling methodology for reviews of design engineering work of nuclear power plants has been well established by other independent design reviews.

(8) Illinois Comment (Tr. of 10/16/84, pp. 134-135)

(From line 22 of page 134 to line 11 of page 135, Illinois comments on S&L's role in the IDR).

IP Response

This Illinois comment is set forth in more detail in its letter of 8/26/84 (see Illinois Comment (3) above) and is responded to above.

(9) Illinois Comment (Tr. of 10/16/84, p. 135)

"Also having to do with S&L's participation, that we wanted to be sure that the field design efforts were being covered; for example, small bore piping and things of that sort that are done at the site."

IP Response

The Clinton IDR will cover review of design engineering work performed at the site, including small bore piping design.

(10) Illinois Comment (Tr. of 10/16/84, pp. 135-37)

(From line 16 of page 135 to line 5 of page 137, Illinois comments at length on the use of the words "safety significant condition" and on the documenting of deficiencies or deviations that do not meet the threshold of potential observations.)

IP Response

In IP's letter of September 27, 1984 to the NRC, we have previously pointed out the limited impact on the conduct of the IDR of whether or not an observation is categorized as "safety significant." Bechtel discussed the definition of "safety significant" at pages 40-42 of the transcript of October 16, 1984. We see no reason to change that definition.

At pages 43-57 of that transcript, Bechtel explains how deficiencies or deviations below the threshold of potential observations are reflected on review sheets and in the appendices of the IDR final report. In addition, Bechtel's letter to IP of October 29, 1984, states that it has initiated actions which "will provide more complete responses to questions regarding discrepancies which the IDR Team regards as too minor to be treated as Potential Observations." We have asked Bechtel to include on the agenda of the public meeting scheduled for November 13, 1984, a brief description of those actions. Bechtel will also respond at the meeting to the NRC comment that "IDR project procedures should provide clear guidelines for determining the threshold between inconsequential discrepancies, such as minor calculational math errors, and observations or potential observations." (IE Report No. 50-461/84-39, Attachment 1, page 1).

(11) Illinois Comment (Tr. of 10/16/84, p. 137)

"Moving on to process errors of deviations. It's not apparent to me that a process deviation would ever result in an observation by the criteria that's being used. And, you know, it obviously is the same way with accumulation of them."

IP Response

Task 3 of the IDR Program Plan (pages 14-16) provides for review of the design process and culminates in Subtask 3G, which is the identification of potential Observations resulting from such review. In addition, Bechtel's letter to IP of October 29, 1984, states that it has initiated actions to give "additional attention to the evaluation of design process." We have asked Bechtel to include on the agenda of the public meeting scheduled for November 13, 1984, a brief description of those actions.

(12) Illinois Comment (Tr. of 8/16/84, p. 137)

"In terms of calculations, there are things such as weights, orientations, and so forth that can affect calculations. And apparently orientations are things like valve orientations and so forth that are being looked at as part of walkdowns."

"But I wonder if other things that are central to calculations, such as weights and things of that sort, are being verified."

IP Response

The IDR team is reviewing inputs to calculations which it judges to be most significant, including valve weights. Reference may be made to the viewgraphs accompanying the stenographic report of the October 16 Progress Meeting, for comprehensive listings of elements reviewed in calculations.

(13) Illinois Comment (Tr. of 8/16/84, pp. 137-138)

"Moving on to the horizontal review. It doesn't seem to me that what is going on will allow us to make a finding that the procedures applicable to the Clinton station are being followed.

We are going to have some knowledge that procedures were or were not followed at Fermi or Byron or other things. But if the desire of a horizontal review is to say that the process being used at Clinton was in accordance with the Clinton commitments and procedures, I don't see how one reached that conclusion on the things that are being looked at because I don't see the tie-in between the horizontal and vertical review so that we see that we can reach that conclusion.

And I would agree with a NRC comment that if you find something in the horizontal review at other plants that's applicable to Clinton, it should be looked at for Clinton; in other words, it should go beyond the three systems."

IP Response

At pages 81-97 of the transcript of the meeting of October 16, Bechtel described in some detail the manner in which it is conducting its horizontal review, including the interrelationship between the horizontal review and the vertical review of three specific systems. Illinois' comments do not raise any questions which were not adequately answered in Bechtel's presentation.