



**CENTERIOR
ENERGY**

Power Generation Group

Perry Nuclear Power Plant
10 Center Road
Perry, Ohio 44081

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Lew W. Myers
Vice President

January 14, 1997
PY-CEI/LCDU-0040L

Attention: Robert Shelby
Lake County Department of Utilities
Mentor Wastewater Treatment Facility
8471 Lakeshore Blvd.
Mentor, Ohio 44060-1514

Gentlemen:

On September 19, 1996, the results of the self-monitoring program conducted by the plant were received, indicating a mercury concentration above the allowable limit (.002 mg/L). On December 16, 1996, following your review of our quarterly report, we received a Notice of Violation regarding the mercury.

Mercury is known present as a part of some permanent plant equipment as indicated in the Toxic Organic Management Plan submitted to you on 4/2/96. There is no use of mercury in any process, nor is mercury waste generated on a routine basis. There have been infrequent instances of mercury waste generated due to the replacement of thermostats or switches. These components are accumulated as complete units, double bagged and stored in a drum until shipped as hazardous waste per applicable Federal, State and Local regulations.

Self monitoring for mercury has been required by Lake County since the fourth quarter monitoring in 1994. Since that time, mercury was either not detected in the sample analysis or it was in trace amounts well below the maximum allowable concentration. In addition, the unscheduled monitoring performed by Lake County has never indicated a mercury problem.

Our investigation was limited by the absence of mercury processes at the Perry Plant. This, combined with a history free of mercury contamination indicates that an error in the sampling or analysis has occurred.

As a precautionary measure, all future sample analysis results will receive a preliminary and a final review for compliance upon receipt. This will allow an opportunity to draw a second second sample as necessary. In addition, we have requested our analytical laboratory to report results in a format that more appropriately meets our compliance needs.

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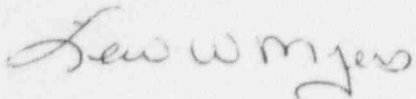
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If you have questions or require additional information, please call Donna Tizzano, (216) 280-5514.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lew W. Myers".

cc: NRC Region III
NRC Resident Inspector
NRC Project Manager
NRC Document Control Desk (Docket No. 50-440)